Hafa Adai!

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Engine trips, causes islandwide blackout. PAGE 2

Burglars steal 60 gallons of diesel. PAGE 3

Abramoff sentenced to 4 years

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Jack Abramoff, the once powerful lobbyist who had represented the CNMI's government and was later at the epicenter of a landmark corruption scandal, was sentenced Friday to four years in prison, a decision that prompted a mix of reactions locally.

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Abramoff

Sentencing closes sordid chapter

By DEL QUENTIN WILBER and CARRIE JOHNSON
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—With his wife and children sitting just a few feet away in a packed courtroom, Jack Abramoff choked back tears as he watched lawyers argue over his sentence. He then told the judge he was sorry for his crimes, adding that he was no longer the person "who happily and arrogantly engaged in a lifestyle of

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The impact performance of a laminated safety glass by Kautz Glass, Co. is displayed, with consultant Dr. Ken Shankweiler seen through it, during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce workshop at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday. The workshop was intended to prepare local businesses for potential emergencies in observance of CNMI Disaster Preparedness Month.

DESPITE CONTINUING OUTAGES

Classes will start Monday

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will begin the school year Monday, PSS Commissioner Rita Sablan said yesterday, as maintenance workers were finishing the installation of generators and water pumps at each school and Head Start site.

"I hope providing water will not be a problem because we have reserve tanks. Schools have been asked to check water tanks to make sure there is enough. And generators have been procured," she said.

In August, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked Board of Education

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E. coli found in drinking water

E. coli was found in the drinking water, as CUC said the ongoing outages have affected water quality. Two samples, one conducted on Wednesday and one on Thursday, found E. coli bacteria in the water delivered to portions of As Gonno Road, Ahu Drive and Alaguan Street, according to CUC.

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should PSS put off the start of classes to mid-September when the power situation is expected to stabilize?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

10 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

INSIDE

On Defense
Barack Obama says that Republicans are attacking him to avoid talking about the sagging economy and housing problems.

NATION...Page 10

Thai Crisis
Once only for the ruling elite, Thailand's stately Government House has turned into a cross between a refugee camp and a village fairground.

ASIA...Page 11

VMA Host
America, meet Russell Brand.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Local

Engine trips, causes islandwide blackout

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The entire island was without power for approximately 45 minutes yesterday, after an engine overheated and automatically shut down.

The cooling water and high temperatures automatically tripped and shut engine 8 at Power Plant 1 down, said Gary Camacho, Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Division manager.

"At that point in time, the island demand could not be met, and then of course, the rest of units experienced low frequency and they just automatically shut off," he said. "Each and every one just started to shut off to protect itself."

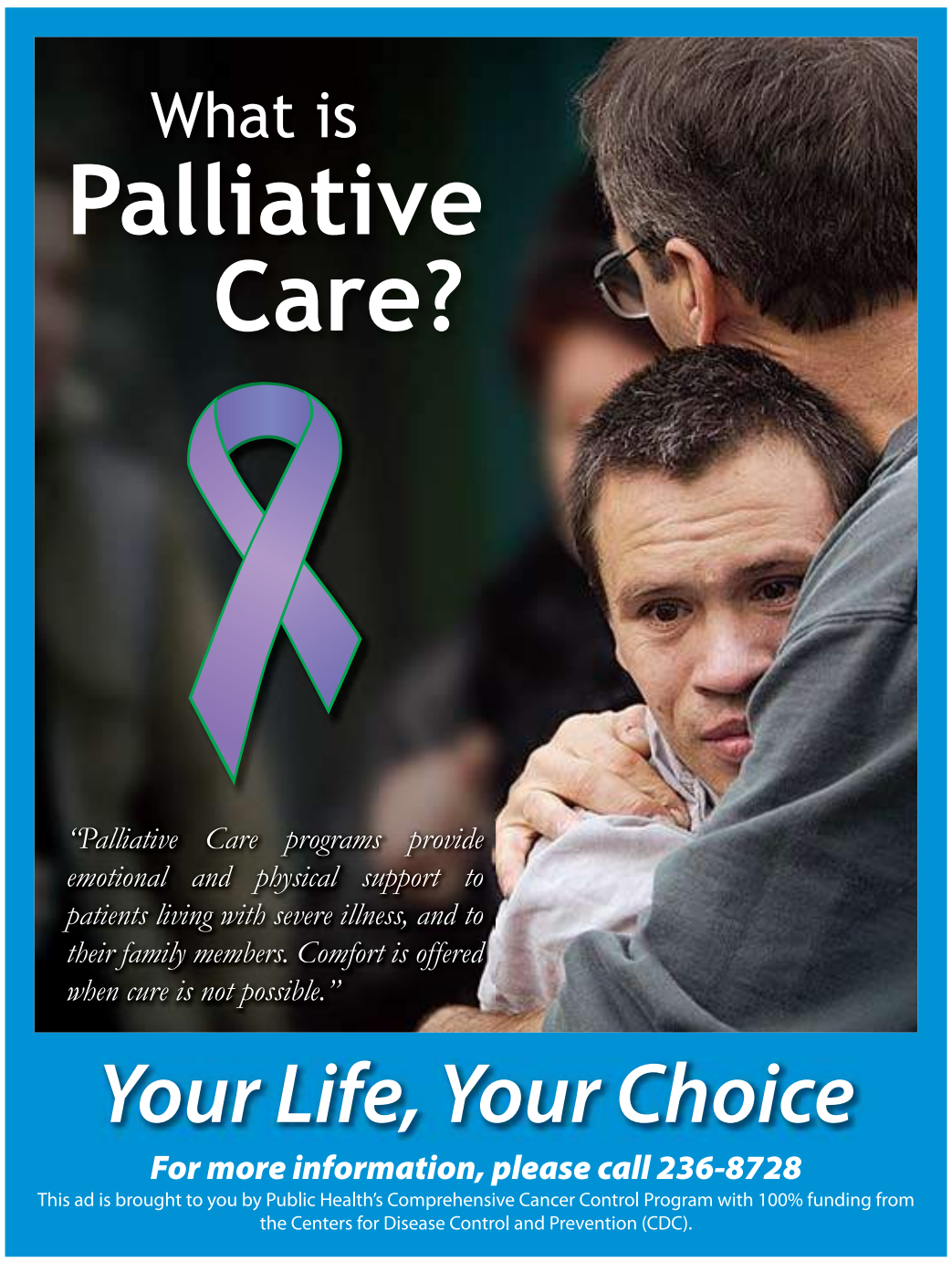
The blackout occurred around 3 pm, and power was restored approximately 45 minutes later, Camacho said. Engine 8 remained down yesterday afternoon, but engine 6, producing 5 megawatts, along with the engines at Power Plant 4, producing 14 megawatts, provided the island approximately 19 megawatts of power. Approximately 41 megawatts are needed to sufficiently power the island.

Camacho said CUC employees were working hard to get engine 8 operational in order to follow the load-shedding schedule.

"The power plant is doing the best they can. They're working hard," he said.

Engine 2, the fourth engine that has been operational on a regular basis at Power Plant 1, should be up by next week, Camacho said.

Eighteen Aggreko generators are expected to produce an additional 15 megawatts of power by Sept. 16 or 17.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'Load-shedding schedule will be followed'

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will work on trying to follow the load-shedding schedule more accurately, a CUC official said yesterday.

There have been complaints from customers that their daily outages are not taking place at the scheduled time, said Power Division manager Gary Camacho.

"The schedule will be followed next week," he said.

CUC is releasing a revised schedule after an engine went down yesterday morning.

Under the new schedule, each area will experience three-hour outages three times in a 24-hour period. CUC is also tweaking the feeders that are grouped together. Each area is going to experience extended outages, he said.

This week, some areas have not experienced scheduled outages because CUC has been able to produce more power,

See LOAD on Page 4

LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

The revised load-shedding schedule is as follows:

8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	**Feeder-2: Entire Grid** Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose Intersection **Feeder-4: Entire Grid** Portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden) **Feeder-7: Entire Grid** Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	**Feeder-3: Second partial** Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue **Kiya-4: Entire Grid** Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa **Kiya 1: Entire Grid** As Terlaje, NMC,Botanical Garden, Portions of Fina Sisu, Lower Dandan, Upper Dandan, Homestead, Isley Field, Kanat Tabla
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	**Feeder-1 Second partial** Upper Navy Hill, Upper MIHA, 99 Cents Store **Kiya-2: Entire Grid** As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu
5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	**Feeder-3: Second partial** Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue **Kiya-4: Entire Grid** Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa **Kiya 1: Entire Grid** As Terlaje, NMC,Botanical Garden, Portions of Fina Sisu, Lower Dandan, Upper Dandan, Homestead, Isley Field, Kanat Tabla
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Source: *Commonwealth Utilities Corp.*

Contamination found in drinking water

PREPPING FOR AGREKKO JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Linemen from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power division install yesterday afternoon the power lines that will be connected to the new Aggreko generators in Lower Base.

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

E. coli was found in drinking water Wednesday and Thursday, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said the ongoing outages have affected water quality.

Two samples, one conducted on Wednesday and one on Thursday, found E. coli bacteria in the water delivered to portions of As Gonno Road, Ahu Drive and Alaguan Street, according to CUC.

Tests indicated there was adequate levels of chlorine, which is used to disinfect the water system, but the samples were collected during or within an hour of a power outage, according to CUC.

"Therefore, the chlorine treatment did not have enough mixing or contact time within the distribution system," CUC said.

Yesterday morning chlorinators flushed out the lines and the chlorine treatment was increased, according to CUC. More samples were taken yesterday afternoon and results will be ready by this afternoon.

The pipes that pump the water are designed to be pressure-filled, but with the constant outages, the pipes are not fully pressured, allowing contaminated ground water to enter and fill the pipes, said Derek Chambers, an Environmental Protection Agency advisor to the Division of Environmental Quality who works within the Safe Drinking Water branch.

Proper water pressurization is a concern for CUC, and they are addressing the issue in a number of ways, said Bruce Megarr, CUC deputy director for the Water and Sewer Division.

First, he said, after CUC began metering the amount of water consumers used rather than using a flat rate, consumption dropped.

Also, a leak detection team is dispatched to areas that have two to three hours of unpressurized water, Megarr said.

"[The teams] have been very successful in Susupe and Chalan Kanoa, and San Antonio," he added.

CUC is also working to make sure there is plenty of available chlorine, Megarr said. They recently renewed their contract with the chlorine provider and have ordered 36 additional chlorine cylinders. Chlorine injectors with repair kits have also been ordered to "ensure chlorine delivery to water systems is as seamless as possible," he added.

E. coli and fecal coliforms are bacteria that indicate the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes, according to CUC. Microbes in the waste can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms.

CUC recommends residents in the affected areas to not drink the water without boiling it for one minute and letting it cool. Household bleach can also be added to the water. After adding the bleach, allow it to mix or sit with the water for 30 minutes or more.

60 gallons of diesel stolen from mayor's office shop

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Field Operations Shop of the Saipan Mayor's Office in Lower Base was burglarized again yesterday and about 60 gallons of diesel were stolen from two tractors.

Field Operations Shop director Joe Tenorio said it was the second time in three weeks that burglars broke into their compound and stole gallons of diesel from heavy equipment.

Tenorio said they discovered yesterday's burglary between 8am and 9am when they reported to work and learned that the tanks of a military tractor and Diamond Rio tractor have been drained of fuel.

He said he immediately instructed the staff to check the compound's fence.

They discovered that wires in a portion of the fence located behind a container in the backside of the shop had been cut.

Two weeks ago, a burglar or burglars also cut a portion of the fence and stole over 115 gallons of diesel by draining the tanks of five heavy equipments, Tenorio said.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Field Operations Shop director Joe Tenorio shows yesterday the tank of the Diamond Rio tractor that burglars drained of diesel fuel.

The director said he would talk with Mayor Juan B. Tudela to provide either at least one staff or hire a security guard to watch the shop during nighttime or weekends.

He, however, realized that there is no funding available to provide security at the shop.

For the meantime, Tenorio said, they will just regularly check the compound, especially during weekends.

"That's the only way now to save our fuel and other tools," he said.

Mañagaha waters get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality has analyzed water samples collected from Managaha's recreational beaches and dock this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. DEQ assigns all of the sampled beaches site a green flag. Enjoy our waters.

DEQ analyzed a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha this week. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(PR)***

Remote Pacific Islanders awarded scholarships

COLUMBIA, South Carolina—Six decades ago, the remote Pacific Islands of Micronesia were the site of intense battles between American GIs and entrenched Japanese defenders. Now the region is better known for hosting the reality television show *Survivor* and its picturesque palm-lined beaches.

The reality behind the television show is less glamorous. Literacy and life expectancy are low, even by developing world standards, and the isolation of the tiny islands poses a major barrier to economic development.

A small group of former Peace Corps Volunteers and American teachers is working to help. Their charity, the Habele Outer Island Education Fund, has awarded over $5,000 in tuition scholarships to island students who will attend private schools in the Pacific this fall.

The scholarships are issued to children in grades kindergarten through high school as part of an effort to promote educational opportunity throughout Micronesia. Neil Mellen, a Habele board member explains: "The Secretariat of the Pacific reports that fewer than a fifth of these islanders have access to acceptable sanitation and that infant mortality rates are five times higher than those in the United States.

"At Habele, our hope is that greater access to education will provide these students with the tools to help their communities address the problems. The six scholarship winners from throughout Chuuk and Yap States will travel to and from their schools with money raised by their families, and all of the recipients have signed performance contracts that tie their scholarships to strict academic targets."

Albert Fong, a native of Woleai who teaches at a public school on Ulithi, reiterated Mellens optimism, "Micronesians are proud of their long and close relationship with the United States. The role of charities like Habele is powerful. As a nation we recognize that continued improvements in K-12 education are vital. Working with local community leaders and traditional chiefs, Habele has a big impact on the lives of our youth."

Habele has also sent more than $2,000 in books and school supplies to community libraries this year. The charity works in conjunction with Peace Corps Volunteers serving in the islands and members of the nonprofit Oceanic Society.

David Reside, country director for the U.S. Peace Corps in Micronesia, said of the scholarships it is particularly important that there be opportunities for those students who show great promise but are at a great disadvantage in accessing continued education.

Habele is addressing this issue by providing modest educational grants to students from the more remote outer islands, students who might not otherwise be able to pursue these educational opportunities.

Habele consists of donors and volunteers from across the United States and the Pacific.

The Fund operates on a strictly volunteer basis with no paid employees and is still seeking support for its ongoing public school book drives. Visit www.habele.org to learn more. ***(PR)***

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy T. Villagomez through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 09, 2008, at 9:00 A.M. at the CRM conference room, 1st floor Morgen Building, Oleai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

1. Matua Bay Resort & Golf Course – CRM Permit No. TMS-2008-X-074
2. Ming Commercial Building – CRM Permit No. SMS-2008-X-034
3. Marianas Shipyard Dry Dock Facility – CRM Permit No. SMS-2008-X-032
   a. Permit application/summary by CRMO
   b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
   c. Permit Status (CRMO/CRM Agencies)

III. OTHER MATTERS
IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. [Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.]

JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director

ABRAMOFF

From Page 1

In a Washington, D.C., court, Abramoff fought back tears as he declared himself a broken man and appeared crestfallen as the judge handed down a sentence lengthier than prosecutors had sought.

"I'm not the same man who happily and arrogantly engaged in a lifestyle of political and business corruption," he said before U.S. District Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle. "My name is the butt of a joke, the source of a laugh and the title of a scandal."

Abramoff, 49, already has served nearly two years for his conviction in a related Florida fraud case. The sentence Thursday by U.S. District Judge Ellen Huvelle means that the former Republican lobbyist will likely remain in prison until 2012.

At the height of his influence, Abramoff was instrumental in blocking the passage of legislation establishing federal authority over the CNMI's immigration system and boosting the local minimum wage. The corruption scandal involving him rocked Capitol Hill and damaged the CNMI's reputation.

Key observers on Saipan attributed the pending federal takeover of the CNMI's immigration rules—which may soon be the subject of a lawsuit filed by Gov. Benigno Fitial's administration—to the lasting impact of Abramoff's work.

"I believe the decision to file the federalization lawsuit has some relation to our inability to negotiate with key people in Washington," said Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee. "Some federal officials until now won't have anything to do with the CNMI because of what transpired with Abramoff."

Former Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Juan Guerrero echoed those statements, saying federal lawmakers' reaction to the Abramoff scandal cost the CNMI allies in the nation's capitol.

"He was paid to do a job and I think he was effective but the way he did it comes back to reflect on us," he said. "I hope the U.S. Congress will now let this issue rest in peace."

Labor activist Wendy Doromal in her web blog admitted to having mixed feelings about Abramoff's sentencing. Doromal condemned the "irreversible damage" which, she said, resulted from Abramoff's lobbying work on behalf of the Commonwealth. Still, she expressed personal sympathy for him.

The lobbying deal between Abramoff and the CNMI government, Doromal said, "perpetuated the suffering of hundreds of foreign contract workers by preventing the passage of federalization laws that could have spared them the indignity and injustice of being victims of illegal recruiters, being cheated, scammed, and otherwise abused."

But, she added, "I believe Jack Abramoff is sincerely sorry for his crimes and takes responsibility for what he has done. I know this because I wrote to him last year, and he replied to me last summer after the death of his mother. I believe that his two-page typed letter to me was sincere."

However, Abramoff's sentencing was for a shorter term than some wanted to see. Irene Tantiado, former president of United Coalition of Workers, said Abramoff should spend more time in prison.

"We're happy that he was put jail but four years is not enough for what he has done to the guest workers here," Tantiado said.

Meanwhile, Charles Reyes, the governor's spokesman, expressed hope that Abramoff's sentencing will signal the end of the "guilt by association" the CNMI has seen in the wake of the corruption scandal.

"A lot of federal policymakers in Congress have reacted negatively toward the CNMI because of Abramoff," he said. "We hope that negative association will be put to an end."

As a lobbyist, Abramoff and his colleagues lavished campaign donations, tickets to sporting events and concerts, and vacations on public officials to secure influence with them. His restaurant, Signatures, also lost thousands in free or discounted meals and drinks given to Washington, DC, powerbrokers.

Public officials in return helped Abramoff's clients win millions in federal grants and funding. They also slipped him internal government information and altered legislation to favor his clients. ***(With Agnes E. Donato and The Associated Press)***

SENTENCING

From Page 1

political corruption and business corruption."

"I am sorry, so sorry that I have put everyone through this," Abramoff said.

Abramoff, the powerhouse Washington lobbyist who admitted running a wide-ranging corruption scheme that ensnared lawmakers, Capitol Hill aides and government officials, received Friday a reduced sentence of four years in prison because of his cooperation with federal investigators.

More than a dozen people, including an Ohio congressman and a deputy interior secretary, have been convicted in the Abramoff lobbying scandal, and Justice Department officials said the investigation is continuing. Still under scrutiny are former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, and retiring Rep. John T. Doolittle, R-Calif.

Under federal guidelines, U.S. District Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle could have sentenced Abramoff to as much as 12 1/2 years. She said she had to weigh the former lobbyist's help against what she described as offenses that seriously affected "the public's confidence in the integrity of the government."

"This is a very challenging case," Huvelle said, adding "there was a consistent course of corrupt conduct and, in a sense, it got much worse over time."

Prosecutors had asked for a lesser sentence because of Abramoff's cooperation—three years and three months. In court papers, the prosecutors wrote that Abramoff has described in detail how he and other lobbyists supplied meals, gifts, trips and "a stream of things of value to public officials in exchange for a stream of official action."

"He has helped us enormously in ferreting out from a huge database of allegations what really is criminal," Mary Butler, a Justice prosecutor, told Huvelle. "That help alone saved the government countless resources."

Abramoff's attorneys sought an even more lenient sentence that could have allowed their client to be released as early as 2010. His lead lawyer, Abbe Lowell, told Huvelle that such a sentence was appropriate because Abramoff was a devoted family man and donated much of his income and time to charity work. "The myth of Jack Abramoff can overtake the actual man," Lowell said.

Huvelle received more than 350 letters on Abramoff's behalf.

The Department of Justice said it had garnered 13 convictions or guilty pleas from public officials and lobbyists in the Abramoff case. The conviction of David Safavian, a former top official at the General Services Administration, was overturned in June by an appeals court; a retrial is scheduled for December.

Among those who have pleaded guilty are former congressman Robert W. Ney, R-Ohio, who was released from federal prison last month; Tony Rudy, a former deputy chief of staff to DeLay; and Steven Griles, former deputy secretary at the Department of Interior.

In April, a former high-ranking official at the Justice Department, Robert Coughlin II, pleaded guilty to accepting thousands of dollars in meals and sports tickets from Abramoff and his lobbyists in exchange for helping their clients.

At the height of his influence, Abramoff moved easily in the corridors of Washington power, from Capitol Hill to the White House, where he was photographed with President Bush. The lobbyist joined the Republican Party in college and campaigned hard for Ronald Reagan in 1980. He later became the national chairman of the College Republicans.

Abramoff eventually joined the law firm of Greenberg Traurig, where he established a group of lobbyists who pushed aggressively for their clients, many of whom were casino-rich Indian tribes. Abramoff and his colleagues dished out campaign donations, luxury boxes and tickets to sporting events and concerts, and paid for lavish golf trips to buy influence with public officials. His Washington restaurant, Signatures, "hemorrhaged money, in part because Abramoff regularly provided free or discounted meals and drinks to public officials," prosecutors wrote in court filings.

He also hired the spouses of public officials and the companies they operated, including a consulting firm owned by Rudy's wife.

In exchange, public officials helped Abramoff's clients win millions of dollars in federal grants and funding. They also tipped the lobbyists off to internal government deliberations and inserted helpful language into bills.

Abramoff admitted that he and a former associate, Michael Scanlon, a one-time press aide to DeLay, concocted a kick-back scheme that defrauded the Indian tribes of millions of dollars. Abramoff directed the tribes to hire Scanlon's public relations firm at hugely inflated prices. The men then split the profits. Scanlon has pleaded guilty but has not yet been sentenced.

The judge also ordered Abramoff to pay $23 million in restitution to the tribes and other victims. About $8 million has already been paid back, Huvelle said.

Bernie Sprague, of the Saginaw Chippewa in Michigan, told Huvelle that Abramoff's actions cost his tribe millions of dollars and emotional heartache. "It totally destroyed our tribe," Sprague said. "All he was worried about was Jack. Jack has to get his next big check ... That was the only thing on his mind."

Abramoff pleaded guilty in January 2006 to charges of fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy to bribe public officials. The next day, he pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Miami to fraud and conspiracy charges tied to his purchase of a fleet of SunCruz casino boats.

He was sentenced in the Florida case to 5 years and 10 months in prison and began serving his time in November of that year. Last week, prosecutors asked the judge to reduce his sentence in that case to 3 years and 9 months 45 months because the former lobbyist has been so helpful. A hearing on that matter is scheduled for next week.

The Associated Press reported Thursday that although Abramoff expressed remorse in court, he had spent his time in prison cooperating with a book that portrays him as an innocent man targeted by biased prosecutors, reporters and political enemies.

The AP said it had obtained an advance copy of *The Perfect Villain: John McCain and the Demonization of Lobbyist Jack Abramoff,* by Gary Chafetz, which blames *The Washington Post* and Sen. John McCain, the Republican presidential nominee whose Senate committee investigated Abramoff. "I never expected that I would have to go to prison," Abramoff says in the book, "until it became clear that the media could not allow this play to close without the hanging of the villain."

CLASSES

From Page 1

chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita to consider pushing back the start of school for two weeks, or until the island has reliable power. Last week, the board decided to start school as scheduled.

"We want to avoid canceling classes during the day because it costs too much to cancel," Sablan said. "The [PSS] leadership [board members, principals, Sablan] got together to identify solutions in how we can continue to operate during the school day without disruption."

Ensuring student welfare is important, especially sanitation issues in regards to the bathroom, Sablan added.

Without power, bathrooms do not receive the water needed to flush toilets.

On Tuesday, Fitial asked the Department of Public Health to make sure that schools are prepared to start Monday. Workers from the Division of Environmental Quality went to each school to check the water and make sure generators were in place.

Sablan said the generators should be installed at the 20 public schools and Head Start sites by today.

Some teachers and parents have expressed concern about starting school without reliable power. A group of 16 parents wrote a letter to the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday appealing to the Board of Education to reconsider their decision and push back the start of school, because children will have a difficult time learning during the day and sleeping during the night.

At yesterday's PSS Professional Development, teachers expressed similar sentiments.

"I'm really concerned about it. We won't be able to deliver instruction. It's going to have an impact on our instruction," a teacher from Marianas High School said.

Schools hours are not the only time students are going to be affected by the outages, the teacher said.

"How about homework? How are they going to do that?" the teacher asked.

Last school year the outages weren't as severe, and even then, the teacher said, there were days when teaching was nearly impossible.

Tim Williams, a Hopwood Junior High School physical education teacher, said he is torn on the issue of starting school Monday. He said he thinks it's OK to start on Monday, "but I agree with the concerns of the parents."

Sablan said she has not had any phone calls from parents expressing concern.

"The response we're getting from parents is to begin classes on Monday," she said. "I haven't received any phone calls. I'm really very happy with the response from the community about starting classes on Sept. 8."

Aggreko generators, adding 15 megawatts of power, are expected to reach full capacity by Sept. 16 or 17. Members of the Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council, which urged the governor to recommend pushing back the start of school, said their concern was that once the PSS schools were up and running and demanding power, the engines would be stressed and blackouts might occur.

LOAD

From Page 2

Camacho said. On Thursday, CUC was able to produce approximately 27 megawatts of power. About 41 megawatts of power is needed to sufficiently power the island. CUC has produced as little as 19 megawatts in the last few weeks.

"When the weather is cooler, like right now, we're able to run the engines longer," Camacho said.

With the state of the engines right now and the lack of reserve, CUC is trying its best to fulfill the island demand throughout the day, he added.

CUC executive director Antonio Muña said earlier this week that CUC can no longer guarantee 24-hour power to the airport, which has experienced two outages in the last few weeks and delayed flights.

'Labor done with all old cases by next week'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor's Administrative Hearing Office will be done with all old cases by next week, according to volunteer consultant and Labor administrative hearing officer Deanne Siemer.

"Next week the hearing office will finish all 2007 and prior year cases. Everyone of them," said Siemer during Thursday's meeting with officials and representatives of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands at Labor's conference room.

Siemer said there are only three exceptions—two 2007 cases that are already on the hearing office's calendar and one agency case.

"Every single other case will be done and they all will be published as dismissed," she said.

Siemer said their goal is to move all labor cases that are relatively straightforward within 90 days.

She said the complicated cases take them a little bit longer so they are separating them from simples ones.

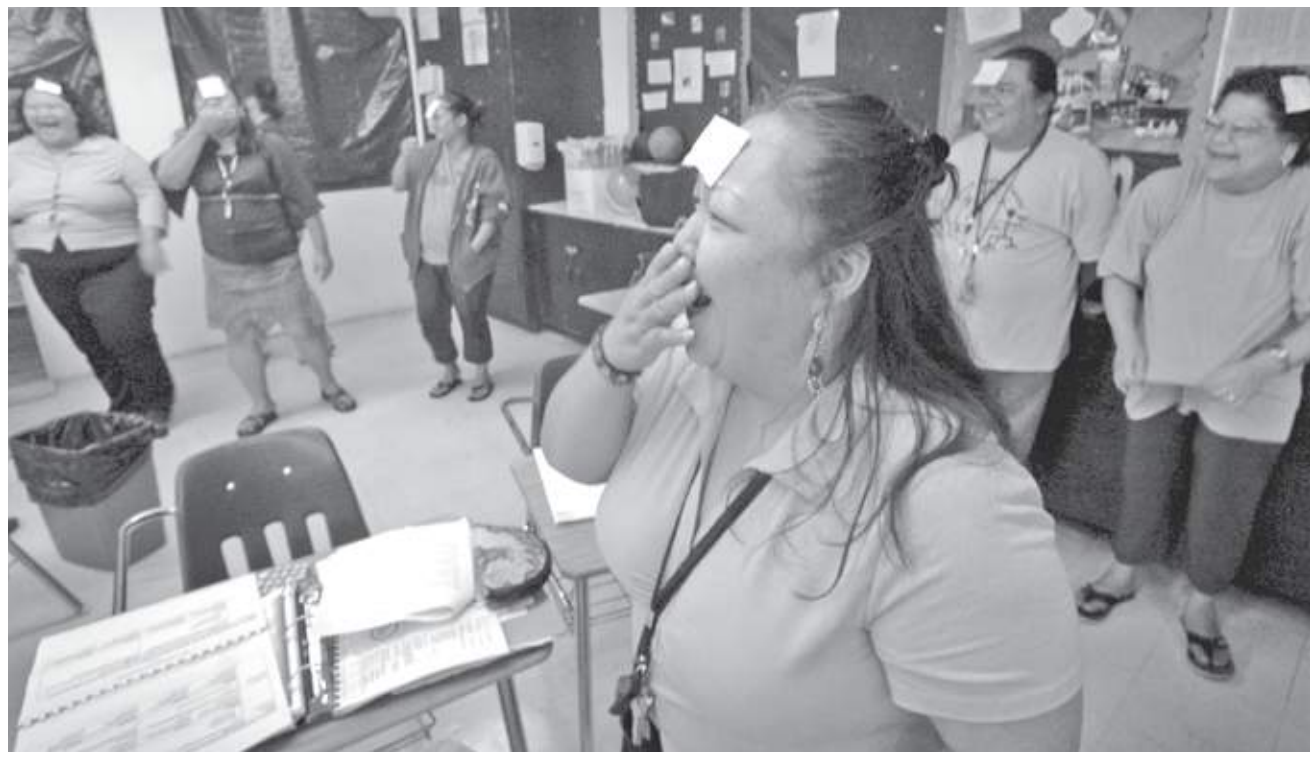
"I think you're going to see a good performance out of the hearing office. I am hopeful of that," Siemer said.

Meanwhile, with an automation system in place, there is no longer any delay at the Labor Processing Section, according to Labor Director Barry Hirshbein.

He conceded that when they started the automation system in February, the process got off to a very slow start. This time, "if you really need someone and you're eligible to hire from off island, you can have them in a week or less," he said.

In about two weeks, the director said, they should be "close to the real time." "In other words, what came in this week will be scanned next week. Everything," Hirshbein said.

Siemer, Hirshbein, and Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat initiated the meeting, which is one of a series, to obtain input from the community on what amendments they can propose to the controversial Public Law 15-108, or the new reform labor law.



'WHO AM I'
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
CNMI Public School System teachers participate in a game called "Who Am I" during the PSS Statewide Professional Development Day at the Garapan Elementary School Thursday.

Camacho under review as CPA chief

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board agreed Friday the financial disclosures of the agency's new executive director, Efrain Camacho, will undergo a brief review to determine whether engineering and construction work he did under government contracts represents a conflict of interest with the duties of his position.

Camacho, named CPA's acting director late last month by Gov. Benigno Fitial, will remain in the role at least until Monday, when the agency's legal counsel is expected to complete the review, board member Benigno Sablan said in the meeting, which was mostly held in a closed-door executive session.

In an interview, Camacho said the work his construction and engineering firm has done for CPA—which includes an ongoing effort to improve the taxiway on Tinian's airport—is mostly old business.

"What is important for people to know is that I would not have accepted the governor's appointment if that project was to have seen anything added in terms of money," Camacho said, noting the Tinian airport project.

Among the key issues Camacho aims to address at CPA, he added, is the agency's shortage of staff members. A draft report, for example, recently noted CPA lacks a staff attorney, a staff engineer and an airport manager.

CPA, he said, is "undermanned and we don't know what to do," adding that "obviously, there are financial constraints" to filling vacancies.

Meanwhile, CPA board chair Joe Lifoifoi said the board's executive session focused largely on the need to improve the electricity generators at the local airport.

USCG chopper crashes off Hawaii int'l airport

HONOLULU—A U.S. Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter crashed yesterday evening approximately five miles south of Honolulu International Airport.

The helicopter's four-man crew was conducting search and rescue drills with a 47-foot motor lifeboat from Station Honolulu when it went down at 8:15pm. The Coast Guard was notified by the FAA and immediately launched a C-130 search plane from Air Station Barbers Point.

A crew on board an inbound Air Force C-17 to Honolulu International saw the Coast Guard helicopter go down and circled the site until a rescue boat from the Honolulu Fire Department could get on scene.

The 47-foot motor lifeboat is also on scene, as is the C-17, the C-130 and helicopters from the Honolulu Fire and Police Departments.

There was no immediate word about survivors or fatalities. ***(USCG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MAFEA meeting today

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, MAFEA, will have a General Membership Meeting today, Sept. 6, 2008, 6pm, at Rommel Crisostomo's residence (back of Sushiland Restaurant/Coin Laundry) on Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

MAFEA is inviting all members and those who want to become a member to attend the meeting. For more information, contact Lito Marquez at 286-6337/322-0232, or Bong at 233-5938. ***(PR)***

'Meet John Davis' forum

There will be a public forum for the community to meet with John H. Davis Jr., who is a candidate for delegate to the U.S. Congress.

The forum will be held Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008, 4:30pm - 6:30pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"You are invited to meet with John H. Davis, Jr., listen to his views on what he can offer as your Delegate to the U.S. Congress, and join in the discussion with any questions or concerns that you may have."

Contact Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 for additional information. ***(PR)***

THS PTSA meeting set

The Tinian High School PTSA will have a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008, at 7pm, in the THS school cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents/legal guardians' to attend this first meeting of the School Year 2008-2009. Call 237-4165 for any questions. ***(PR)***

MHS calendar of activities

Sept. 8 First Day of School. Students report to Homeroom at 7:50am. Refer to Homeroom Listing in school bulletin board (Bldg A). Homeroom List will be posted on Sept. 2 for advance viewing by students/parents. Class schedules will be distributed on the first day of school. For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Parent orientation at SAES

San Antonio Elementary School would like to inform the public that parent orientation for the following grade levels will be as follows:

Sept. 8 (Monday)

- 4th Graders—4pm -5pm
- 5th Graders—5pm - 6pm
- 6th Graders—6pm - 7pm

Sept. 9 (Tuesday)

- 1st Graders—4pm - 5pm
- 2nd Graders—5pm - 6pm
- 3rd Graders—6pm - 7pm

"The orientation will be in each respective classroom. We would like to ask all the parents to be present to receive important information that will be given out by each classroom teacher," school officials said in a statement. ***(PR)***

Calling on CNMI Delegate candidates

The people of Kagman and Precinct 5 would like to get to know all the candidates for the CNMI Delegate position. The community will be having a public forum on Sept. 20 at 5pm at the Kagman Community Center. It will be hosted by the Kagman Komunidat Association. Candidates will get the chance to present themselves and where they stand.

If you are interested in meeting with the Kagman and Precinct 5 public, contact the Kagman Komunidat Association president Jesse Torres at balutan@balutanbox.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Wing Beach cleanup set

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Wing Beach on Saturday, Sept. 6.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify the island, meet brigade members at Wing Beach at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am, break for drinks, and continue the cleanup, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

Last month, volunteers removed debris from Makaka Beach. The last time Wing Beach was selected as a brigade location was September 2007. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

CNMI Division of Historic Preservation's Five-Year Comprehensive Plan

The CNMI Division of Historic Preservation (HPO) will be holding a series of public hearings to solicit input on its comprehensive preservation plan for the period 2008 to 2012.

This plan will establish the HPO's goals and objectives for this five-year period and will determine the types of programs and activities it will support utilizing annual grants received from the U.S. National Park Service.

Public hearings will be held in accordance with the following schedule:

Saipan: September 23, 2008, 07:00 PM at CRM Conference Room

Tinian: September 10, 2008, 07:00 PM at the Gymnasium

Rota: September 18, 2008, 07:00 PM at the Round House in Songsong village

Public input may also be directed to the HPO in writing (letter or email). Letters should be addressed to the Director, Division of Historic Preservation, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Saipan, MP 96950. Emails should be directed to: cnmihpo@pticom.com All comments must be received by the HPO no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 26, 2008.

Additional information about this plan may be obtained from the HPO's main office located across from the Saipan International Airport or from its Rota and Tinian branches.

/s/ **Pedro (Roy) C. Sablan**
Director, Historic Preservation Office

/s/ **Cecilia T. Celes**
Secretary, Dept. of Community & Cultural Affairs

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Stepping off the gas

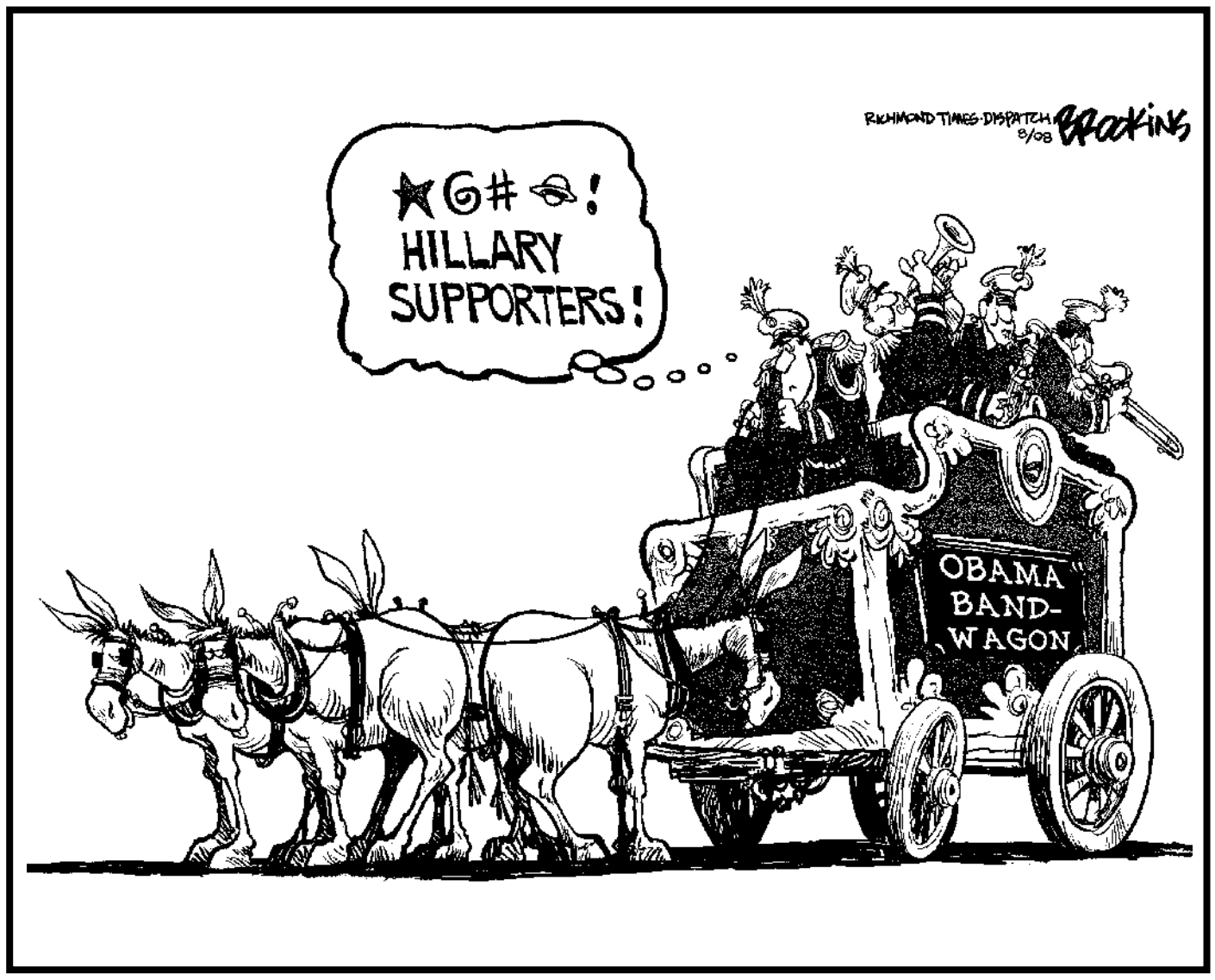
The price of crude oil is falling sharply. It closed at less than $110 a barrel Wednesday—down almost $38 since its July peak. The slack oil market has translated into direct relief at the pump, with regular gasoline now 19 cents a gallon cheaper than it was a month ago. Great news, right? The U.S. economy can grow faster with less risk of inflation; the potential benefits range from brisker domestic car sales to less pressure on state and local government budgets. So much for those evil speculators driving us all to the poorhouse!

But wait a minute. If oil prices keep going down, what will happen to all the progress the United States has just made toward energy independence? Higher gas prices caused U.S. motorists to drive 12.2 billion fewer miles in June compared with a year earlier, according to the Transportation Department. This wiped out the previous five years' worth of growth in gasoline demand, the American Petroleum Institute reports. As a result, we all enjoyed less traffic (and fewer traffic deaths), cleaner air and greater national security.

We are living through a very valuable lesson in applied economics. The United States can indeed change its energy habits for the better, and it can do so fairly rapidly. We are not quite helplessly addicted to oil. But change comes at a cost. We can pay that price directly through higher prices at the pump. Or we can pay it some other way—through government subsidies for alternative fuels, for example, or through the costs and risks associated with offshore drilling. When presidential candidates suggest otherwise, either by proposing a summer gasoline tax holiday, as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., did, or by brandishing a windfall oil profits tax, as Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., did, they should not be taken seriously.

Recent experience with higher gasoline prices and lower oil consumption confirms something we have long maintained: A serious national energy policy would include a higher federal per-gallon tax on gasoline. Just a 19-cent increase in the tax, which is currently 18.4 cents a gallon, would lock in the incentives to conserve that have been lost during the past month's price decline. No one would like paying it, but at least Americans would be propping up their own government when they filled their tanks, instead of Saudi Arabia's or Venezuela's. The debate over energy has taken on a welcome new urgency in recent months; until gasoline taxes are a part of that debate, it still won't be urgent enough.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Palin's privacy versus her public stances

By TIM RUTTEN
(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Rutten is a Times *columnist.*

How sensitive is Sen. John McCain's campaign about his presumptive running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin?

Well, there's the fact that they appear unwilling to let her be alone with the media. God forbid anyone should ask about her views on, say, global warming—she doesn't believe that human activity has anything to do with it. Perhaps they don't want anyone to hear her explain why she opposes hate-crime laws.

When CNN's Campbell Brown asked McCain spokesman Tucker Bounds mildly aggressive questions about Palin's pregnant teenage daughter, and about the governor's lack of experience with national security issues, the campaign's response was to angrily cancel the senator's scheduled appearance on Larry King's show on Tuesday.

That'll show them. (It had the ancillary benefit of sparing McCain the awkward experience of answering direct questions, albeit avuncular King-like ones, about Palin.)

The McCain campaign's major defensive effort on Palin's behalf, however, has been the categorical insistence that any discussion of her 17-year-old daughter's pregnancy is out of bounds, an unacceptable invasion of the family's privacy. It's a sentiment that's been seconded not only by the religious right, which believes that it has found a champion in the Alaskan governor, but also by McCain's Democratic opponent, Sen. Barack Obama. On Monday, he told a group of reporters: "People's families are off-limits, and people's children are especially off-limits. This shouldn't be part of our politics. It has no relevance to Governor Palin's performance as a governor or her potential performance as a vice president."

Both the McCain campaign and Obama are partly right.

Palin's daughter and her unborn child's father are entitled to privacy as children—and that's what they are—and as individuals. They ought not to be pursued by reporters, nor should their friends and teachers be grilled for details about their private lives. Nobody asked them whether they wanted to be made symbolic caricatures in a national debate over the fulfillment of two strangers' political ambitions, and they shouldn't be treated as if they had.

That said, the fact of Bristol Palin's situation and the way in which she and her family have chosen to deal with it are legitimate issues because they involve public policy issues on which Sarah Palin, candidate for vice president, has taken political positions. Palin, for example, opposes sex education in schools, including all access to contraceptive information for adolescents. Similarly, she believes that abortion should be illegal.

But Palin and her family dealt with two personal situations in just the way all Americans are entitled to meet them. When Sarah Palin and her husband discovered that their unborn son would be born with Down syndrome, they were free to make the decision that she would carry their boy to term. When they found that their 17-year-old daughter was pregnant by her high school boyfriend, they were free to reach a decision that the daughter, too, would keep her child and that she and the boy would marry. (They were free to do that even though many, perhaps most, Americans no longer regard teenage marriages as particularly desirable. Most people long ago put away the notion of a boy "making an honest woman" of the girl.)

The point is that the Palins were able to make all these decisions according to the dictates of their own consciences, formed by their own religious convictions, within the privacy of their own family and according to its values and traditions. What they decided is nobody's business but theirs; the fact that they were free to arrive at their own decision is everybody's business.

The particular brand of social conservatism in which Sarah Palin quite evidently believes deeply would deny other American families and other American women the freedom to make these same intimate decisions according to the dictates of their own consciences, religious convictions and traditions.

The McCain campaign would like to cut off discussion of Palin's views as quickly and as completely as possible. That's because McCain's desire to find a female running mate whose views on abortion wouldn't further alienate the religious right led him into a reckless and ill-considered decision. He picked a vice president he hardly knew—and now, his campaign would like to buffalo the electorate into doing the same.

That's unlikely. Reporters are beginning to work their way across Alaska, reconstructing Palin's personal history. ABC-TV first reported—though the McCain campaign denies—that she flirted with a secessionist, state's rights political party. On Tuesday, an online piece by Time magazine reported that, as newly elected mayor of Wasilla, Palin tried to fire a librarian who refused to cooperate in banning books from the public library.

If McCain and his people think they can obscure this sort of record behind an appeal to privacy, they're kidding themselves even more than they're trying to kid the voters. Palin is beginning to look less like Dan Quayle and more like Tom Eagleton, whose abrupt departure from the 1972 Democratic ticket remains a watchword for unpleasant political surprise.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How many Americans?

By STEVEN A. CAMAROTA
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is director of research at the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington.

When the Census Bureau released its new population projections last month, most of the media focused on the country's changing racial composition. But this was almost certainly not the most important finding. The projections show that the U.S. population will grow by 135 million in just 42 years—a 44 percent increase. Such growth would have profound implications for our environment and quality of life. Most of the increase would be a direct result of one federal policy—immigration. If we reduced the level of immigration, the projections would be much lower. The question we have to ask ourselves is: Do we want to be a much more densely settled country?

Native-born Americans have only about two children on average, which makes for a roughly stable population over time. But with an estimated 1.5 million legal and illegal immigrants settling in the country each year, and about 900,000 births to these immigrants each year, immigration directly and indirectly accounts for at least three-fourths of U.S. population growth.

An increase of 135 million people by 2050 is equivalent to the entire populations of Mexico and Canada moving here. Assuming the same ratio of population to infrastructure that exists today, the United States would need to build and pay for 36,000 schools. We would need to develop enough land to accommodate 52 million new housing units, along with places for the people who lived in them to shop and work. We would also have to construct enough roads to handle 106 million more vehicles.

Of course, our country can "fit" more people. But such a dramatic increase would affect many issues about which Americans are concerned, including the environment, traffic, congestion, sprawl and the loss of open spaces. Technology and planning could help manage this situation, but there is no way they could offset all of the impact of 135 million more people. This massive increase also would have implications for the size and scope of government; more densely settled societies almost always are more heavily regulated societies.

Another important finding in the census projections is that, even with record levels of immigration for the next four decades, the U.S. population will still grow significantly older. Immigration makes our society only slightly younger than it would otherwise be. (Consider that, on average, the overall fertility rate in the United States is about 2.1 children per woman. If immigrants are excluded from the data, it's still about 2.0 children per woman. This compares with 1.4 children in Western Europe. Immigration makes for a much more densely settled country; it does not make for a much younger country.) As the Census Bureau stated in its 2000 projections, immigration is a "highly inefficient" means for addressing the problem of an aging society in the long run. The new projections show the same thing.

Some people think that immigration creates large economic benefits. But the economic research is pretty clear: While immigration does significantly increase economic activity in the receiving society, almost all of that increased activity go to the immigrants themselves in the form of wages and benefits. The gain to natives is tiny. When the National Research Council, which is part of the National Academy of Sciences, examined this question, it concluded that the benefits for native-born Americans were equal to only about one- or two-tenths of 1 percent of their income. The two economists who did the work for the council described the effect as "minuscule."

Moreover, this tiny economic benefit was entirely erased by the fiscal drain immigrant households imposed on taxpayers. Perhaps worst of all, the researchers found that to generate this small gain, immigration reduced the wages of the least educated and poorest American workers.

There is no question that immigrants benefit by coming here. But it is difficult to argue that immigration is a well-targeted way to lift up the world's poor. Many immigrants to the United States were not poor in their home countries. More important, although immigration causes an enormous increase in the overall U.S. population, it still represents an infinitesimal fraction of the world's low-income population. We can do more to help poor people in developing countries through trade policies and development assistance.

The United States may well decide to continue to allow the settlement of 1.5 million immigrants (legal and illegal) each year. But legal immigration is a federal program like any other and could be reduced below the 1 million currently allowed to enter annually. Greater resources could also be devoted to reducing illegal immigration. It's important to understand that the new projections show us one possible future. We must decide as a country if this is the future we want.

Letters to the Editor

Uniform application of the labor law

Allow me to share what we, the majority of the guest workers, feel about the response of the Department of Labor to Reps. Tina Sablan and Edward Salas. I feel that our feelings and sentiments merit attention, particularly because we are the issue.

On income requirements under Section 4926 of Public Law 15-108, DOL did not give any direct answer. Although the law sets annual wage requirements, the rules and regulations also state that "alternatively, a foreign national worker may provide equivalent assurance that one's immediate family will not require social services from the Commonwealth government due to lack of income or support during their period of stay in the Commonwealth."

For one, I have a question on how DOL interprets the law as far as how much is the income requirement. What the law states is that the annual wage should be equal or greater than150 percent of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines for the State of Hawaii (http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/07poverty.shtml). This Hawaii poverty guideline is not one arbitrary amount but is a bracket, depending on the number of persons in a household. For example, two persons (which assumes a wife and husband) who earn a combined $15,750 times 150 percent equals $23,625. However, if you ask DOL how much the income requirement is, they normally say $29,000 or so. They do not compute based on the Hawaii poverty guidelines.

On the waiver for the income requirements, DOL needs to apply the law uniformly. We are aware of an application for 706E using the "alternative way" which was approved with no hassle at all, which is odd considering the fact that the husband and wife are not legally married, which the law requires. Is this a case of accommodation because someone powerful had to be accommodated as a favor? I can also name names if it has to come to that point to prove that to some extent, what they do is capricious.

On unpaid wages, instead of arguing at this point to prove who is responsible for enforcing the judgment, I would like to beg for DOL's assistance. There are guest workers who are willing to leave the CNMI once they receive their money. From what I gather from talking to them, especially in the case of Chinese guest workers, because they do not speak English well, they hesitate to pursue filing in small claims court. I believe that the best solution is for DOL to order the bonding companies to pay. We laud Rep. Tina and Ed for their sincere sympathy for the guest workers and for their efforts help us get better status and fair treatment.

At the same time, I challenge Cinta Kaipat and Secretary San Nicolas to a dialogue with the guest workers and not only with a select few. Enough of the war in the media! P.L. 15 -108 has a lot of gray areas that tend to confuse people, thus possibly their decisions may be subjected to appeal. I hope DOL will interpret the law with consideration to guest workers who have been here in the island, giving their sweat and blood and living the best years of their lives to contribute to the economy of CNMI.

Irene Tantiado
Capital Hill, Saipan

Reaction to 'Our future: A matter of policy'

I read your column in the *Saipan Tribune* today. And when I was finished I kept thinking about your conclusion that "the process for dialogues no longer exist." I don't really know anything about that. At any rate, it is a key point in the current "federalization issue."

Another of your conclusions (or points) is that the views of the CNMI were never solicited as the Feds contemplated, planned and solidified the approaching federalization of labor and immigration. And that this process began "years ago." Another key point in the "federalization issue."

You also put forth some economic numbers concerning federalization, including the annual(?) loss of $5 million of revenues normally collected by the CNMI from foreign workers. You compare this to the estimated $400,000 that it would cost to fund a lawsuit against the Feds. The assumption is that if the lawsuit is won, the CNMI will not lose the abovementioned revenues. Sounds clear.

And so at the end of my first reading I thought that I should reconsider my current attitude that it is not a good idea to sue the Feds. I also thought about what Attorney General Matt Gregory was quoted as saying: Suing the Feds is not considered un-American at all. It's, in fact, our duty to do such in this case. As that is from memory, I hope it's correct.

I then went back a while later and re-read your column. This time it took me a lot longer. I re-read a number of sections, a number of times until I felt I understood what you were saying. I made notes in the margins as one might due when really trying to understand an issue. Well, I ended up with a few questions, and perhaps thoughts that might be food-for-thought for you and others.

Midway through your article you state, "…how best to approach maintaining and improving dismal economic conditions here. There's also a dire urgency and need to resolve instituting sustainable economic programs on a resource-poor archipelago."

If through a successful lawsuit or some other form of resolution the CNMI were to retain its current immigration and labor status, what would the current or new administrations do toward resolving the quandaries as stated in the previous paragraph? Might it be advantageous to seek ways to encourage additional federal assistance? Can the CNMI really go it alone?

And speaking of the Feds, you go on to say, "a good beginning to force them into understanding the history of the unique agreement between two sovereign governments in 1972." I wonder if this is simply a braggadocio figure of speech, or do you really consider it possible to force them? If so, how? And with what results?

It seems that at the core of your conclusions and points is the consideration of self- government. You speak of two sovereign governments. Is the CNMI really a sovereign government, or a portion of the whole of the United States of America? I believe that there are other U.S. Commonwealths, such as Virginia and Massachusetts, which are both states of the U.S. And I believe their immigration is U.S.-controlled. And I'm not sure about how their labor is handled. Of course, the CNMI is not a state, but a territory, and that, no doubt, creates a separate distinction. Hummm. Might it work for the CNMI if the Feds controlled immigration and left labor as a local control? Is that possible? Is that how Virginia and Massachusetts do it? This gets more complicated as I move along. I think I'll stop and take some time to look into what the Covenant really says about the CNMI and the United States.

Anyone else have any light to shed on these subjects? Hope so!

Perry Conner
As Matuis, Saipan

Boycott classes!

I, like any other parent, would like to request the Board of Education to delay the start of classes slated to open on Sept. 8, 2008. Although this letter may came late, something could still be done to reverse the opening of classes. The opening of classes should resume until such time BOE can assure that schools would be spared from power outages.

Recent study shows that lack of rest disrupts blood flow to the brain. The brain, the most important tool in life, must not be compromised in any way. This is not what we want our children's body to experience at such a fragile age. Lack of rest can hinder the ability of every child to focus. What makes the Public School System think that students can learn outdoors? Do you think they will pay attention to the instructor or pay attention to who's across the campus? Everyone will be outside, of course.

The same goes for adult employees who go to work with lack of rest. The ability of the individual will not be up to par. The productivity will not be to the employers' liking. I suggest that all parents should voice out and observe a boycott (not let your child go to school) until Sept. 22 or until such time CUC is in a stable condition.

I appeal to BOE and PSS administrators to have a heart. BOE and PSS have always said they care for the learning and safety of every child. So where's the care? Where's the love?

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

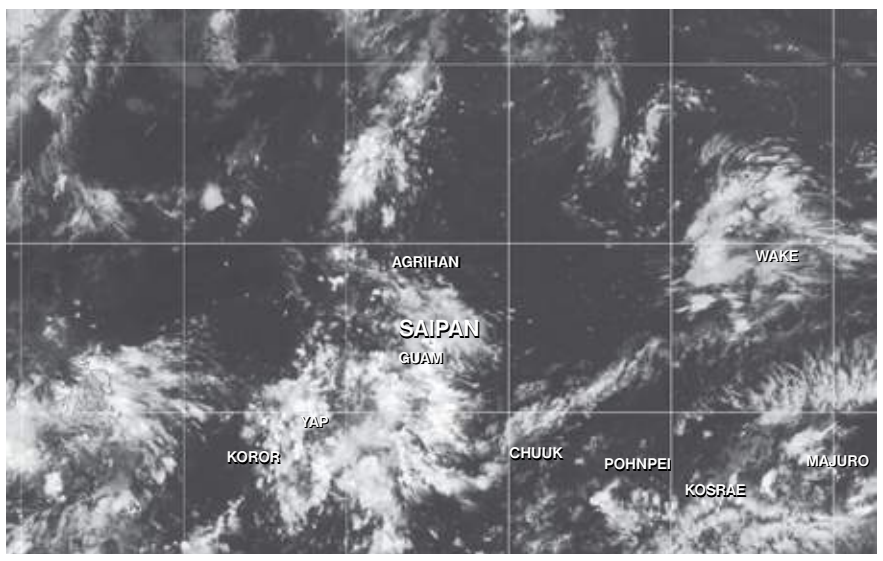
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼49
Beijing	Cloudy	▲88	▼68
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Rain	▲70	▼57
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼64
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲94	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼48
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼77
New York	Rain	▲76	▼68
Osaka	Cloudy	▲84	▼73
Paris	Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Pusan	Rain	▲77	▼67
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼69
Salem	Sunny	▲81	▼52
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼63
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74
Washington, DC	Rain	▲79	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from 10N130E to west of the Marianas at 15N140E then turns northward to end near Iwo To island at 25N142E. Converging trade winds east of the trough axis is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over a large area over Koror, Yap and the Marianas. This area is south of a line from 10N133E to 18N144E to 15N150E. Similar conditions also exist at the northern end of the trough axis over Iwo To island or north of a line from 22N140E to 22N142E. Trade-wind convergence is causing an extensive area of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from south of Pohnpei and eastward across Kosrae to west of Butaritari between 6N and the equator from 155E to 170E. Scattered showers are also found just south of Kwajalein and Majuro to the dateline within 90 miles of a line from 8N168E to 5N172E to 6N180. An upper-level trough runs east-northeastward from an upper low centered west of Wake Island near 21N160E to another low northeast of Wake near 25N171E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with these features are seen over Wake Island between 16N and 25N from 161E to 172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:00AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
12:53PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:01PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
11:01PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:05AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:05AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	6:05AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:05AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:18AM	10:41PM
Sunday	12:10PM	11:29PM
Monday	1:03PM	
Tuesday	1:53PM	12:20AM
Wednesday	2:41PM	1:13AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer

	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 06, 2000

Protests vs. Enron junked
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has thrown out three formal protests against its decision to award Saipan's 80-megawatt power plant to Enron on grounds of lack of merit and public's interest to move ahead with the project. CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez signed the response to the protests brought by the consortium of Alsons, Tomen, Singapore Power and Tan Holdings; Saipan Power Partners and Telesource CNMI, Inc.

IG gears up for Saipan harbor project audit
The United States interior department's Inspector General is gearing up for a thorough audit of the Saipan Harbor Improvement Project, in response to the Commonwealth Ports Authority's request for a full accounting of the funds earmarked for the undertaking. In an interview, CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios disclosed the Inspector General's Office on Guam is conducting the audit investigation of the Saipan seaport project, which was marred with controversies due to alleged re-channeling of funds.

Saipan, Tinian under Typhoon Condition II
The Emergency Management Office has advised Saipan and Tinian residents to step up typhoon preparedness after the National Weather Services Guam issued an advisory that typhoon Saomai was slowly heading to the islands as of late last night. Saipan and Tinian have been placed under typhoon condition II due to anticipated storm threats, according to an EMO bulletin. EMO has maintained typhoon condition III for the island of Agrihan since early morning yesterday.

September 06, 2001

Businesses face $200M in additional cost
A 120-percent minimum wage hike in the CNMI, which is being pushed by some legislators in the US Congress, may cost businesses in the Northern Marianas some $200 million in additional expense if implemented. The projection was echoed by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, citing a report of the Congressional Budget Office as deliberations on the issue loom at the US Senate within the next two months.

WWII ordnance explode in San Jose
At least two explosions rocked a vacant lot in San Jose, as workers who were clearing the private property accidentally unearthed pieces of vintage ordnance that were used during the Second World War. The incident was immediately reported by concerned citizens to the Emergency Management Office, which responded to the scene Tuesday afternoon. EMO Deputy Director Mark S. Pangelinan, who responded to the call with a team from the agency's Response and Recovery Section, said two other live ordnance were recovered from the scene.

USDA program gives better access to home ownership
Here's good news for first-time homeowners who are planning to construct new homes on their private properties or homestead lots. The regional state office of the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development has recently given the Bank of Guam the green light to provide home loan guarantees of up to $1 million for low to moderate income earners in Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

September 06, 2002

'Restrictive laws killing businesses'
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce implored the government to stop killing the businesses that fund its operations through restrictive laws and additional taxes that further burden CNMI investors. Chamber President Richard A. Pierce said that, after years of nurturing the CNMI business environment, the present government and legislators are trying to erode the economic tools that made the Northern Marianas the investor's choice in recent years.

A wolf in sheep's clothing is still a wolf
Whether the 1.3 percent increase in user's fee is implemented as a one-time hike or on a staggered basis, the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association still remains opposed to it. SGMA executive director Richard A. Pierce said yesterday that the association remains absolutely opposed to any increase in the user fees that garment manufacturers on-island currently pay.

Business

Greenspan: Don't use Fed as a 'magical piggy bank'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Troubled by the Bear Stearns debacle, former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is advocating a new way of dealing with government bailouts of companies whose sudden collapse could wreak havoc on the country's economic and financial stability.

Greenspan says Congress needs to give the government new powers to handle troubled companies to minimize any potential losses to American taxpayers. A self-described libertarian Republican, Greenspan has a reputation for being wary of giving the government extra powers. However, in crisis situations, there needs to be a clear process for handling bailouts, rather than depending on the Fed to do so, he reckons.

Greenspan

A high-level panel of financial officials should be given broad authority to quickly determine whether a failing company poses a sufficient threat to the entire U.S. economy, he recommends. If so, the company would be shut down.

"We need laws that specify and limit the conditions for bailouts—laws that authorize the Treasury to use taxpayer money to counter systemic financial breakdowns transparently and directly rather than circuitously through the central bank as was done during the blowup of Bear Stearns," Greenspan wrote in a new epilogue to the paperback edition of his memoir, "The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World." (The paperback will be released Sept. 9; the hardcover came out last year.)

Greenspan envisions the formation of a group akin to the Resolution Trust Corp. to step in, take a troubled company into conservatorship, wipe out the equity, impose some charge or "haircut" on its debts before guaranteeing them and then selling its assets. The RTC was created in 1989 to deal with the aftermath of the savings and loan crisis. It disposed of the assets of failed savings and loans and then went out of business.

Costs to taxpayers would still be a concern, he acknowledges. As with the RTC, however, the public cost could be minimized, he says.

Critics in Congress, in academia and elsewhere worry that the Fed's unprecedented actions—including financial backing in March for JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s takeover of Bear Stearns Cos.—are putting taxpayers on the hook for billions of dollars of potential losses. They also say it encourages "moral hazard," that is, allowing financial companies to gamble more recklessly in the future.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, who took the helm after Greenspan, has repeatedly defended the Fed's actions, saying they were necessary to avert a meltdown of the entire financial system, which would have devastated the U.S. economy.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian markets tumble after Wall Street sell-off
TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets plunged Friday after more bad news on the U.S. economy, a vital export market, triggered a broad sell-off on Wall Street overnight. Disappointing reports on U.S. retail sales and jobless claims undercut hopes for a late-year recovery in the U.S. and depressed investor sentiment across Asia. In Japan, the benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 2.9 percent at 12,196.47 in early afternoon trading. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index tumbled 3.1 percent to 19,752.65, dropping below the key psychological level of 20,000 and hitting its lowest point in more than a year. Markets in mainland China, India and Australia were also down more than 2 percent. A drop in the dollar against the yen overnight contributed to the malaise, pummeling major Japanese exporters. The dollar fell to 106.79 yen early Friday afternoon in Asia; on Thursday in Tokyo it was trading above 108 yen.

Oil steady in Asia ahead of OPEC meeting
SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices were steady Friday in Asia below $108 a barrel as investors wait to see if OPEC moves to restrict output at its meeting next week amid a two-month plunge in prices. Light, sweet crude for October delivery was down 17 cents to $107.72 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange midday in Singapore. The contract overnight fell $1.46 to settle at $107.89. "We're definitely in a short-term bearish trend," said Gavin Wendt, head of mining and resources at research firm Fat Prophets in Sydney. "With prices falling so rapidly, I think OPEC would like to protect that $100 price barrier." The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is scheduled to meet next Tuesday in Vienna and has indicated it may take action to defend the $100 a barrel level. Crude has plunged about $40, or 27 percent, since surging to a record $147.27 a barrel on July 11.

Nation

Obama: GOP avoiding issues on voters' minds

AMERICA VOTES

YORK, Pa. (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said Thursday that Republicans at their national convention are attacking him to avoid talking about the sagging economy and housing problems.

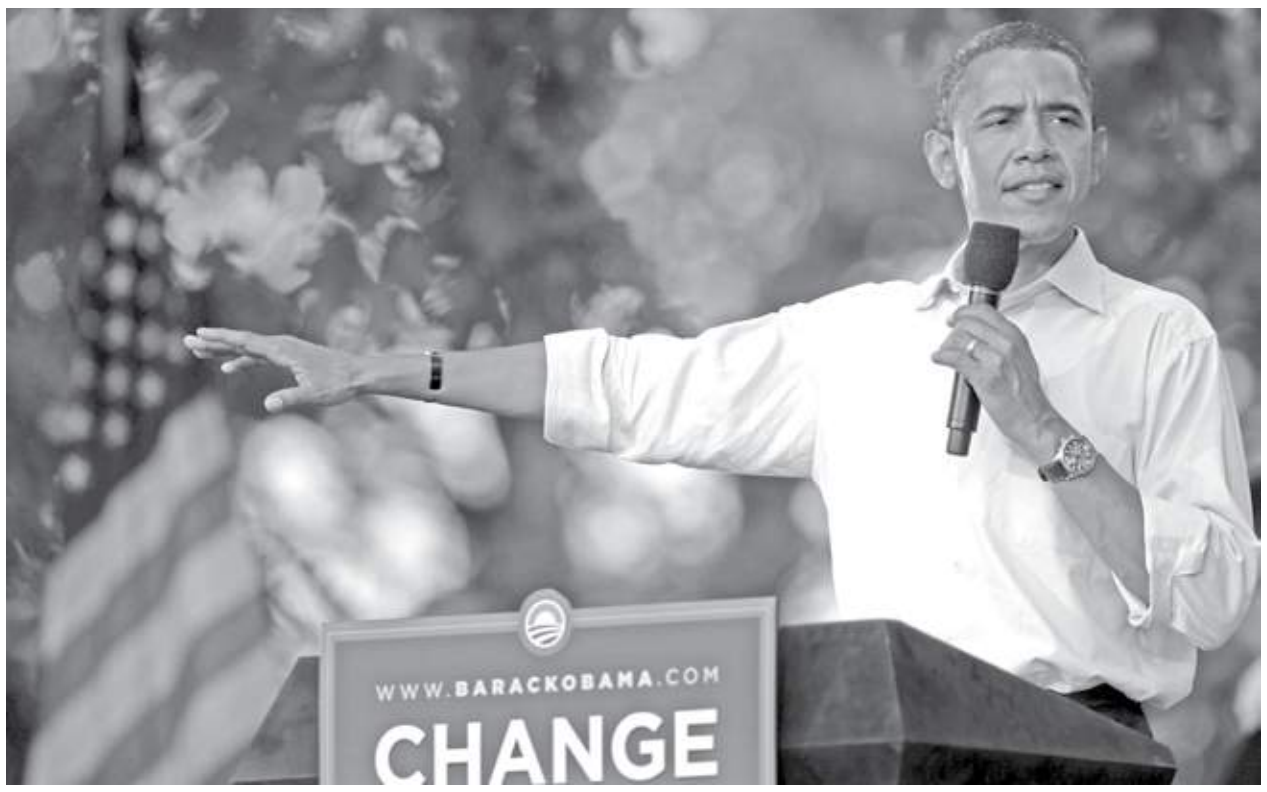
"You're hearing an awfully lot about me—most of which is not true—but you're not hearing a lot about you," Obama said. "You haven't heard a word about how we're going to deal with any aspect of the economy that is affecting you and your pocketbook day-to-day. Haven't heard a word about it. I'm not exaggerating. Literally, two nights, they have not said a word about it."

The Illinois senator told voters that the GOP convention speakers are spending all their time talking about politics, not about issues that matter to voters. He criticized the Republicans for not addressing the economic distress or housing foreclosures that have grown during the Bush administration.

Speaking with reporters later, Obama dismissed the idea that Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the GOP's vice presidential candidate, had been criticized unfairly because of her gender.

"The notion that many questions about her work in Alaska is somehow not relevant to her potentially being vice president of the United States doesn't make too much sense to me," Obama said.

"I assume she wants to be treated the same way guys are treated, which means their records are under scrutiny. I've been through this for 19 months. She's been through this for, what, four days so far?"



AP

Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks at a rally at Buchanan Park in Lancaster, Pa., Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008.

Asked by workers at a factory here about Palin's attacks on him Wednesday night, Obama replied, "I'll let Gov. Palin talk about her experience. I'll talk about mine."

Later, when reporters pressed him about Palin, Obama noted that his opponent is Republican John McCain, not the GOP vice presidential pick.

"By the way, I've been called worse on the basketball court. It's not that big a deal," Obama said.

Reporters shouted after Obama as he left the microphones for details about what he had been called. His reply: "You'd have to bleep it out."

Earlier in the day Obama's top strategist, David Axelrod, dismissed the Alaska governor's convention speech as dishonest about Obama's record.

Axelrod told reporters aboard Obama's campaign plane that the Republican National Convention speakers had distorted the Democratic candidate's record and ignored his resume. He also suggested that John McCain's running mate was only parroting what she'd been told.

McCain tells convention, nation he'll bring change

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—John McCain, a POW turned political rebel, vowed Thursday night to vanquish the "constant partisan rancor" that grips Washington as he launched his fall campaign for the White House. "Change is coming," he promised the roaring Republican National Convention and a prime-time television audience.

"Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight for what's right for our country," he urged in a convention crescendo.

To repeated cheers from his delegates, McCain made only passing reference to an unpopular George W. Bush and criticized fellow Republicans as well as Democratic rival Barack Obama in reaching out to independents and swing voters who will pick the next president.

"We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us," he said of the Republicans who controlled Congress for a dozen years before they were voted out of office in 2006.

Sources: Bush advised to delay troop cuts in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush's top defense advisers have recommended he maintain 15 combat brigades in Iraq until the end of the year contrary to expectations that the improved security in Iraq would allow for quicker cuts, The Associated Press has learned.

Military leaders told the AP that the closely held plan would send a small Marine contingent to Afghanistan in November to replace one of two Marine units expected to head home then.

If Bush follows the recommendations, he would delay any additional buildup in Afghanistan until early next year, when another brigade would be deployed there instead of to Iraq.

That move would cut the number of brigades in Iraq to 14 in February.

The plan is aimed at taking advantage of security gains in Iraq to bolster the military effort in Afghanistan, where violence is on the rise. Several senior military and defense officials described the recommendations on condition of anonymity because the plan has not been made public.

They also acknowledged the plan is a compromise since Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, argued to maintain the current force levels in Iraq—about 146,000 troops, including 15 combat brigades and thousands of support forces—through June.

Bush is weighing the recommendations; in the past, he has largely accepted the military's advice. If he adopts them, it would be left to the next president to execute further troop reductions in Iraq and a greater buildup in Afghanistan. Bush's term ends in January.

Southeast braces for Hanna as Ike strengthens

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—Some Southeastern states declared emergencies and officials urged residents to head inland Thursday as Tropical Storm Hanna headed toward the Atlantic coast, where it could bring high winds and rain from South Carolina all the way to Maine.

Meanwhile, disaster planners cast a wary eye to a suddenly ferocious-looking Hurricane Ike strengthening in the Atlantic. And with power outages and other problems from Hurricane Gustav still lingering in Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other relief groups found themselves juggling responses to three storms.

Rain and wind from Hanna could start as early as Friday night in the South, where some residents shuttered houses and stocked up on food and sandbags, coastal parks closed and schools canceled events and changed sports schedules. Watches and warnings were issued from Georgia to near Atlantic City, N.J.

AP

Members of the Charleston Fire Department fill sandbags for local residents under I-26 in Charleston, S.C. as they prepare for Tropical Storm Hanna and Hurricane Ike on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008.

Officials did not order people from their homes in advance of the storm, which was expected to make landfall early Saturday. Forecasters said it was expected to strengthen only slightly, though it still could become a hurricane.

ACROSS THE NATION

Detroit Mayor Kilpatrick pleads guilty, resigns

DETROIT (AP)—Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick pleaded guilty to felony charges Thursday in a sex scandal, forcing him out of office after months of defiantly holding onto his job leading the nation's 11th-largest city. He was ordered jailed for four months and fined $1 million. "I lied under oath," Kilpatrick said in court. The plea deal brings to an end a seven-months-long ordeal that has been a distraction for one of the nation's most troubled cities, which suffers from some of the highest home foreclosure and unemployment rates in the country, and has struggled for decades against population loss, high crime and racial tension. The Detroit city charter automatically expels any mayor guilty of a felony. A one-sentence letter signed by Kilpatrick and filed with the court states his resignation will take effect Sept. 18. City Council President Ken Cockrel Jr. will succeed Kilpatrick as mayor until a special election is held.

Judge sentences Jonesboro shooter to 4 years

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)—A man who as a teen helped shoot and kill five people in a schoolyard ambush was sentenced Thursday to four years in prison on an unrelated federal weapons charge. U.S. District Judge Jimm Larry Hendren expressed dismay that Mitchell Johnson had not taken advantage of the second chance he received upon his release after years in custody. Now 24, he was 13 at the time of the 1998 shootings at Jonesboro's Westside Middle School. While his trial contained no reference to the shootings, they were a key element of Johnson's sentencing hearing Thursday. Hendren agreed to go beyond sentencing guidelines after prosecutors argued that the guidelines did not take into account the severity of the shootings, which aside from those killed left 10 people wounded. "No matter what I do today, you will have a life to live," said the judge. "Those who died in 1998 will not."

McGreevey's ex offers to drop claim if he pays up

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A lawyer for former Gov. James McGreevey's ex-wife said Thursday she will drop a charge that she was duped into marrying him if he agrees to pay her $109,000 a judge says he owes. Dina Matos' lawyer John Post said the fraud claim filed by his client will be dropped if McGreevey makes full payment and agrees not to appeal the judge's divorce ruling. That drew an immediate rebuke from McGreevey lawyer Steve Haller, who said, "we will appeal or not appeal at our own discretion." A private meeting with the judge in the case is scheduled for Monday. Matos has claimed that McGreevey, who resigned from office in 2004 after declaring himself "a gay American," duped her into marriage because he needed the cover of a heterosexual relationship to advance his political career.

Asia

AP

A street vendor sleeps next to her products outside Government House Friday, Sept. 5, 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand. Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej is under mounting pressure to resign or dissolve parliament as demonstrators continue to illegally occupy his office complex.

Thai PM's office now a fairground of protests and entertainment

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Once only open to the ruling elite, Thailand's stately Government House has turned into a cross between a refugee camp and a village fairground.

Thousands of anti-government protesters occupying the prime minister's office compound have set up a fully functioning tent community with free food, outdoor showers, entertainment, massages and lots of manicured shrubs for hanging laundry to dry.

The siege, in its 11th day Friday, is aimed at forcing Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej to resign. The demonstrators have not yet succeeded in kicking him out of office, but they have certainly kept him out his office.

To ease the kinks caused by round-the-clock protesting, massage services are available under the shade of palm trees for 100 baht (US$3) an hour.

In a live radio broadcast Thursday, Samak called the situation a national embarrassment and refused to step down—drawing boos and jeers from thousands of protesters fanning themselves on lawn chairs outside his office.

"I am outside and can't work properly," Samak said, his speech broadcast from a sound stage set up on the Government House lawn.

Samak initially based himself at a military headquarters outside the capital, Bangkok, but his aides say he has lately worked from an office at the Defense Ministry.

"Is it shameful? Yes it is," Samak said.

The protests have caused one of the biggest political crises since Thailand became a constitutional monarchy in 1932. It is the first time in the country's history that civilians have overrun the seat of government.

Built in the early 20th century and modeled after a Venetian palace, the Gothic-style Government House is one of Bangkok's most distinguished buildings.

US raid complicating Pakistani's presidential bid

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A deadly American-led raid on a Pakistani village embarrassed the government and eroded support for the pro-U.S. presidential front-runner Thursday just two days before the election.

Furor continued to mount over the first known foreign ground assault inside Pakistan against a suspected Taliban haven. The government summoned the U.S. ambassador for an official protest, while Parliament passed resolutions of condemnation.

In news likely to stoke more anger, intelligence officials said a missile strike was suspected in a blast Thursday that killed at least four people in North Waziristan, part of the tribal belt where Osama bin Laden and his deputy are thought to be hiding. Previous such strikes have been blamed on the U.S.

The ground assault, with troops helicoptered in, occurred in adjacent South Waziristan early Wednesday. Officials said at least 15 people died, including women and children. The Foreign Ministry said no militant leaders were killed and there was no sign the attackers detained anyone.

U.S. officials declined public comment. But a U.S. military official said intelligence had indicated the presence in the village of people "clearly associated with attacks on U.S. forces in Afghanistan." He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of cross-border operations.

The raid has complicated life for presidential front-runner Asif Ali Zardari and his governing Pakistan People's Party heading into Saturday's vote by legislators to elect a successor to former President Pervez Musharraf, who resigned under pressure last month.

Japan temple burns down as monk attacked by bees

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese monk trying to rid his temple of a hornet's nest panicked when the hornets attacked him and dropped a torch, burning his temple to the ground, police said Thursday.

The Buddhist monk had put lighted rags on a stick into the nest in the temple, but dropped it and ran when the hornets flew out and attacked him, Niigata prefectural (state) police official Yuichi Ozaka said. The fire occurred Wednesday.

He said the monk, Atsushi Sato, 41, suffered burns on his ears, face and left hand, but he was not stung. The temple in Ojiya City, northern Japan, was burned to the ground, along with the nest, Ozaka said.

Police said Sato's burns were not life-threatening.

World

Rescuers can't get aid to starving Haitian city

GONAIVES, Haiti (AP)—The convoy rumbled out of the U.N. base toward a flooded, starving and seething city Thursday, carrying some of the first food aid since Tropical Storm Hanna drowned Gonaives in muddy water three days ago.

Hungry children at three orphanages were waiting for the canvas-topped trucks, loaded with warm pots of rice and beans and towing giant tanks of drinking water.

But the food never arrived Thursday.

The convoy crept over mud-caked, semi-paved roads past closed stores, overturned buses and women wading in water up to their knees with plastic tubs on their heads.

After about 45 minutes, the half-dozen trucks ground to a halt. U.N. peacekeepers wearing camouflage fatigues and bulletproof vests jumped out while others stood guard with assault rifles.

Before them, a huge gouge marred the road. The floods had split the asphalt, and water ran through the 10-foot-wide (3-meter-wide) gap.

The convoy turned around. And the children—like tens of thousands more in this increasingly desperate city—went another day without food.

Some 250,000 people are affected in the Gonaives region, including 70,000 in 150 shelters across the city, according to an international official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information. Argentine Lt. Sergio Hoj estimated that half of Gonaives' houses remained flooded Thursday.

Many houses were torn apart. Families huddled on rooftops, their possessions laid out to dry. Overturned cars were everywhere, and televisions floated in the brown water.

Gonaives—a collection of concrete buildings, run-down shacks and plazas with dilapidated fountains—lies in a flat river plain between the ocean and deforested mountains that run with mud even in light rains. Hanna swirled over Haiti for four days, dumping vast amounts of water, blowing down fruit trees and ruining stores of food as it swamped tin-roofed houses.

Cheney offers US backing for Georgia's NATO bid

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Vice President Dick Cheney insisted that Georgia will join NATO and backed its attempts to rebuild from its war with Russia on Thursday, using a trip to former Soviet republics as a show of U.S. support for their pro-Western leaders.

Cheney flew to Kiev from Georgia, where he denounced Russia's "illegitimate, unilateral attempt" to redraw the U.S. ally's borders by force.

"Georgia will be in our alliance," Cheney told reporters while standing alongside Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, whose pro-Western government has sought to join NATO despite Russian opposition.

Angry Russian officials have repeatedly said U.S. military aid was instrumental in emboldening Georgia to try to retake South Ossetia by force on Aug. 7. The attack sparked five days of fighting and resulted in Russian forces driving into South Ossetia and on into Georgia.

Speaking in Moscow, Konstantin Kosachyov, head of foreign affairs committee in the Kremlin-controlled lower house, accused Cheney of trying to forge an "anti-Russian axis."

"It's Cheney who was behind all recent events on the former Soviet turf," Kosachyov said in televised remarks.

The vice president's trip was intended as a signal that the U.S. will continue cultivating close ties with Georgia and its neighbors even after Russia showed it was willing to use military force against countries along its border.

Before Georgia, Cheney also stopped in oil-rich Azerbaijan.

There are concerns the Kremlin might next seek to squeeze Ukraine as it tries to reclaim dominance in the former Soviet Union. The strategically located country of 46 million has pipelines that carry Russian gas to European consumers and a Black Sea port that is home to a key Russian naval base.

"America will do its duty to work with the governments of Georgia and our other friends and allies to protect our common interests and to uphold our values," Cheney said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syria makes peace proposal to Israel

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syria's leader said Thursday he offered a proposal for peace with Israel but also refused to break off ties with Hezbollah and militant Palestinians—a key Israeli demand. President Bashar Assad also said indirect negotiations with Israel were on hold until that country chooses a new prime minister and that direct talks would have to wait until a new U.S. president takes office. Assad's comments came after meetings with France's leader and regional mediators in talks focusing on Mideast peace and Iran's nuclear program. France hopes that warmer relations with Syria, Iran's ally, could help the West in its efforts to persuade Iran to curb its nuclear program.

Iraq to open Saddam abuse museum at Abu Ghraib

BAGHDAD (AP)—The notorious Abu Ghraib prison is getting a facelift: work to reopen the facility and construct a museum documenting Saddam Hussein's crimes—but not the abuses committed there by U.S. guards. The sprawling complex, which has not held prisoners since 2006, will be refurbished with the goal of taking new inmates in about a year, the government said Thursday. Also, a section of the 280-acre site just west of Baghdad will be converted into the museum featuring execution chamber exhibits and other displays of torture tools used by Saddam's regime—including an iron chain used to tie prisoners together.

Don't let them eat cake, Saudi cleric says

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—When Hala al-Masaad invited her girlfriends over to celebrate her 18th birthday with cake and juice, the high school student was stepping into an unusual public debate. Is celebrating birthdays un-Islamic? Saudi Arabia's most senior Muslim cleric recently denounced birthday parties as an unwanted foreign influence, but another prominent cleric declared they were OK. That has left al-Masaad with mixed feelings about her low-key celebration last month. She loves birthday parties because they make her feel she has "moved from one stage of life to another." "But I sometimes feel I'm doing something haram," she said sheepishly, using the Arabic word for banned. The Saudi ban on birthdays is in line with the strict interpretation of Islam followed by the conservative Wahhabi sect dominant in the kingdom. All Christian celebrations—and even most Muslim feasts celebrated elsewhere in the Islamic world—are prohibited as alien customs.

Maharlika–Pinoy News

DOLE: More Filipinos seeking jobs abroad

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Labor and Employment has acknowledged that more Filipinos were seeking jobs abroad, despite the Arroyo administration's claims of a rosy economy.

The agency is seeking P511 million for its budget next year for job search assistance For Filipinos wanting to work overseas, according to Labor Secretary Marianito Roque at Friday's budget hearing at the House of Representatives.

Roque presented DoLE's proposed P6.86 billion for 2009, which is 6.5 percent higher than the agency's budget in 2008.

Roque said the bulk of the proposed budget would go to the Technical Educational Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to fund trainings and scholarships.

Roque said the job search assistance would benefit about 16 million workers, including some 800,000 seeking jobs abroad.

He said the government was targeting "non-traditional countries" like France, Finland, Manitova, and British Columbia for deployment of at least 40,000 Filipino workers a year. At least 3,400 workers leave the country a day for work overseas.

Roque said this would help reduce the number of unemployed Filipinos, which now number to 2.9 million.

Overseas Filipino workers (OFW) remittances of about $14 billion a year have helped boost the economy amid the slump worldwide.

In her past speeches, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said she would work hard to improve the economy so that working abroad would not be the only option but a career choice for Filipinos.

PRAYER RALLY AP
Filipino Muslim girl gesture as she joins others in calling for peace in southern Mindanao provinces during a prayer rally outside a mosque in suburban Taguig, south of Manila on Friday Aug. 29, 2008.

Evacuees say soldiers looted homes

By CHARLIE SEÑASE, JULIE ALIPALA, NIKKO DIZON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Residents returning from evacuation centers have found their houses and shops in Barangay Dapiawan in Maguindanao's Datu Saudi town ransacked and looted and said soldiers were responsible.

Maj. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said he had ordered an inquiry into the allegations.

Dapiawan was virtually turned into a "ghost village" after hundreds of its residents fled when Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels occupied the area and engaged government troops in fierce fighting two weeks ago.

After the rebels withdrew, it took government troops a few days before issuing a security clearance that allowed displaced villagers to return.

At their homecoming on Wednesday, Dapiawan residents found that their houses and small shops had been forcibly opened and robbed of cash, merchandise and other valuables, local police said.

"Practically all the goods and merchandise have been lost. We have been robbed. Even the cash from sales that we left behind is gone," said storeowner Monib Kanapia.

"My family depended on this small business that sustains our daily needs and now it's gone. What is more disgusting is that the military which is supposed to defend and protect properties are the suspects," Mama Mandatu said.

Mandatu said personal belongings, furniture, appliances and a water pump had disappeared.

Hana Akbar cried upon seeing her house razed. "We have nothing left. We are back to zero," she said.

Guiahod Guinaid appealed for aid for the repair of his house which was hit by artillery fire. He said a 105mm shell from the military destroyed the galvanized roofing.

Lt. Col. Rolando Neroja, commander of the 64th Infantry Battalion that liberated Barangay Dapiawan from the rebels, expressed surprise at the complaint of villagers that soldiers looted their homes.

Neroja said he was investigating the allegations and would deal severely with erring soldiers.

Saipan group to host mock delegate polls

The Coalition for Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Ethnic Minorities, CREAM, will be spearheading a mock election on Sept. 13, 2008 to determine who among the candidates for the U.S. Delegate post will be supported by the group.

The officers and members of the group agreed to hold the mock election at their meeting Saturday, Aug. 30, at the Alanars Compound in San Antonio.

After the mock election, the coalition will invite the top four candidates to speak in a forum so they could hear firsthand from the front runners their campaign platforms and how they plan to represent and help the CNMI tackle its many problems such as power situation, lack of water, labor and immigration issues for both locals and long-time contract workers, immigration status, immediate relatives who will lose their local immigration status and many other concerns that only the U.S. Congress could resolve.

The voting criteria is not only limited to U.S. citizen ethnic voters. Eligible U.S. citizen voters can also participate so they can voice their opinion through the ballot.

Everyone who is eligible to vote will be given a ballot and allowed to cast their votes, provided that the potential voter is 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen and a registered voter. Several designated polling places will be located around Saipan. Officers of the coalition will be going around to provide ballots for people to vote.

The results of the mock election will be published in the local papers for the people to know the sentiment of concerned citizens of the CNMI.

For more information regarding this exercise, contact the following: Gus Loste, 483-3138; Emi Pamintuan, 483-0727; Willie Wagan, 288-4113, and Ed Caranzo, 287-8476.

The next meeting of the CREAM is on Saturday, 5pm at Alanars Compound. ***(PR)***

LABOR FRONT

Subcontracting jobs, changed contracts

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Does a subcontracting job for an alien worker need prior approval from Labor?
A: Yes. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, any subcontract by an employer to another employer for the services of a foreign national worker shall be implemented or performed only with the prior approval of the Labor Secretary. Application for approval of a subcontract shall be submitted on a standard form provided by Labor. The Regulations state that temporary census worker may be subcontracted to the Department of Commerce without prior approval.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can an alien worker perform a job under a changed existing contract without Labor's prior approval?
A: No. The Regulations provide that any change to an existing approved employment contract shall be implemented or performed only with prior approval of the Labor director and notice to any affected alien worker.

A request for contract change must be submitted on a standard form provided by Labor. A contract change may not be put into effect until 10 days after notice is given to the affected foreign national workers. The Labor director may deny a contract change. A denial may be appealed to Labor's Administrative Hearing Office.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can an employer withhold an alien worker's passport and entry permit?
A: No. According to the Regulations, no employer may withhold from any foreign national worker any passport, entry permit, approved employment contract, or other documents related to the status of the alien worker.

A copy of the approved employment contract shall be provided to the guest worker by the employer prior to arrival in the CNMI. The entry permit shall be provided to the foreign national worker at the orientation session at Labor.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune *will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to* Saipan Tribune *via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.*

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Peso recovers on suspected central bank support

SINGAPORE (Reuters)—The Philippine peso recovered from its weakest levels in nearly a year after the central bank sold dollars on the market on Friday to defend the currency near the 46.90-per-dollar level, traders said. "They (the central bank) were in earlier at 46.90, but not aggressive," said a trader in Manila. A second trader also said the central bank was selling dollars in an effort to support the peso, which fell as low as 46.94, its weakest level in nearly a year. By 0305 GMT, the peso was around 46.80 per dollar. ***(PDI)***

Arroyo visits wake of 'Tiya Dely'

MANILA, Philippines—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will pay her last respects to Philippine radio icon Tiya Dely at the latter's wake on Friday, Press undersecretary Jose Capadocia said. Arroyo is expected to arrive at the Premier II Chapel of the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City this morning, Capadocia said in a phone interview. Tiya Dely, Fidela Mendoza Magpayo in real life, passed away earlier this week during her radio program at dzRH. Arroyo joins other prominent personalities in mourning Tiya Dely's passing, including Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) spokesman Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal. ***(PDI)***

Filipino among 7 killed in UAE chopper crash

DUBAI—Seven people, including one Filipino, were killed when their helicopter crashed on takeoff from an oil platform in the Gulf, an oil services company working for Dubai Petroleum said on Thursday. The civil aviation authority in the United Arab Emirates said the victims of Wednesday's crash were two Indians, an American, a Briton, a Filipino, a Pakistani and a Venezuelan. London-based Petrofac said the Aerogulf Bell 212 with two crew and five passengers on board was taking off from a platform in the Rashid field 70 kilometers (40 miles) off Dubai on Wednesday evening when it crashed. A fire broke out on the main deck of the drilling rig, but was quickly extinguished, it said.

Muslim rebellion in RP may spread to neighbors—analysts

MANILA, Philippines (AFP)—With peace talks between the Philippine government and Muslim rebels in tatters, analysts are warning violence will escalate and could spill over into neighboring countries.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo this week scrapped the government panel handling the negotiations, a move analysts say ended any hopes of settling the four-decades-old Muslim insurgency before she leaves office in 2010.

They fear the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which had been negotiating for a Muslim homeland on the revolt-hit southern Mindanao island, may now splinter into smaller and more radical groups.

The government has said any future peace talks will have to be more representative of the people of Mindanao rather than just the MILF, which will have to disarm if it is to enter any future negotiations.

"No respected revolutionary movement will even think of handing over their guns," said Rommel Banlaoi, executive director of the Philippine Institute for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, a think tank.

He said the dissolution of the peace panel would lead the MILF rebel forces to resume their armed struggle on a larger scale, and warned the conflict could "spill over to neighboring countries like Indonesia, Malaysia or Brunei."

There have been fears MILF splinter groups could align themselves with regional terrorist networks such as Indonesia's Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), which has already infiltrated the southern Philippines

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Reward for Kato, Bravo raised to P10M each

DAVAO CITY—The government has raised the reward for the capture or information that could lead to the fall of elusive Moro rebel commanders Ombra Kato and Abdullah Macapaar alias Bravo, an official said.

Interior Secretary Reynaldo Puno and National Police Director General Avelino Razon made the announcement here Friday during a briefing with reporters on the status of the manhunt against the elusive Moro Islamic Liberation Front commanders, who were blamed for the attacks in North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte.

From P5 million each, Puno said the reward for the capture of the two commanders was now P10 million each. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

MILF rebels seize rice donations for evacuees–police

MANILA, Philippines—Moro rebels reportedly forcibly took 60 bags of rice donated by an international group meant for evacuees in Mindanao in a highway robbery on Tuesday, an official said on Friday.

Chief Superintendent Joel Goltiao, public relations officer in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said the incident occurred on Sept. 2, 2 p.m. when more than 20 armed men, reportedly from the 105th base command of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) under the leadership of a certain Commander Bonnie Ayunan, forcibly took the bags of rice donated by the World Food Program.

Goltiao said Libutan village councilors Nasser Mapangal and Udasan Bundula were to deliver the bags to evacuees of the war in the region when they were intercepted by Ayunan and his men.

The Moro rebels had two Kubota hand-tractors with trailers to transport the rice then fled toward the direction of the municipality of Datu Saudi Ampatuan.

Goltiao said police were conducting follow-up investigation on the incident. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

C-130 fuselage located by US Navy ship

DAVAO CITY—The fuselage of the military transport plane that crashed here Monday last week was found Thursday evening by the US Navy ship helping in retrieval operations, officials announced Friday.

Using an underwater sweeping device, the USNS John McDonnell, an oceanographic survey ship of the United Sates Navy sent last week to help Task Force C-130, located the fuselage of the Philippine Air Force's C-130 at 1.3 nautical miles east of Bucana village here around 6 p.m. Thursday, authorities said.

Philippine Navy spokesman Edgard Arevalo said the fuselage was found 130 meters deep or 426 feet below sea level.

"Images captured by USNS McDonnel have been forwarded to Philippine Authorities," Arevalo told reporters in Manila.

Arevalo added that the recovery of the fuselage was important for the investigation and "put closure on the issue of how and why the C-130 crashed."

The C-130 was on its way to Iloilo City to pick up members of the Presidential Security Group when it left the airport here at 8:50 p.m. on August 25. Minutes later, for still unknown reasons, the plane crashed into the Davao Gulf with seven airmen, the pilot and co-pilot and two Army soldiers on board. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Philippine inflation hits 17-year high

MANILA, Philippines (Reuters)—Annual inflation hit 12.5 percent in August, another near 17-year high, but the central bank said price pressures may have peaked, signalling its tightening campaign could be drawing to a close.

The figure matched market consensus, coming at the high end of the central bank's 11.8-12.6 percent forecast range and up from July's revised 12.3 percent, data showed on Friday.

However, the monthly pace of price increases slowed sharply to 0.3 percent from 1.6 percent in July as food costs, which have climbed at a red-hot rate this year on fears of rice shortages, stayed level and the pace of fuel price increases slowed.

"We are seeing moderation in prices. If this continues, obviously inflation will slow down," Governor Amando Tetangco said on Friday, commenting on the data.

"Central bank will watch this closely to see if the slowdown would continue and be more generalized. A reversal in the downtrend of oil prices remains the biggest risk to the inflation outlook," he told reporters.

Tetangco said he was not ruling out that inflation had already peaked last month. The central bank had earlier predicted consumer price growth would peak in September or October.

The central bank will have September inflation data before its next rate decision on Oct. 9, and many analysts said the monetary authority may raise rates for a fourth and final time next month to bolster the weakening peso and because domestic inflationary pressures are still prevalent.

"The headline rate remains high. I think we may see another 25 basis point hike in October," said Simon Wong, economist with Standard Chartered Bank. "After October, the central bank will put rates on hold."

The Philippine central bank has raised rates by one percentage point so far this year in three consecutive moves.

Core inflation, which strips out some volatile food and energy items, climbed to an annual 7.0 percent in August from 6.3 percent in July, also convincing some analysts that another rate rise was on the cards.

The peso, hovering at one-year lows and down nearly 12 percent so far this year against the dollar, was quoted at 46.85 in morning trade, weaker than Thursday's close at 46.54. The stock market was down 1.26 percent.

Some analysts said with global oil prices falling due to economic fears the central bank might decide to stay pat at its next meeting, leaving the headline overnight policy rate at 6.0 percent.

"There is a very tight relationship between inflation in the Philippines and energy and commodity prices," said Sin Beng Ong, economist with JP Morgan. "So when you see oil crash like that, that means inflationary pressures are actually a lot lower going forward."

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Maharlika – Pinoystyle

Cristine Reyes fires back at Carlene Aguilar

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines —Looks like another word war is escalating between Dennis Trillo's ex Carlene Aguilar and his current GF Cristine Reyes. Carlene resents it when Cristine mentions Calix (Carlene's love child with Dennis) in her interviews.

"Tantanan niya rin ako at wag niya kami isali ni Den sa interviews n'ya," fumed Cristine. "Pa-interview siya ng pa-interview di naman siya artista. Kung gusto niya magpapansin, wag nya gamitin si Den at ang anak nila. Tinatakot niya parati si Den na magpapa-interview siya 'pag di sya binigyan ng pera."

What can she say about Carlene's statement that she will allow Calix to meet only the girl that Dens will marry? "So kung gano'n, malapit ko na pala makilala ang anak nila. Wow!"

Whoa! She's Dens' woman! Hear her roar!

Rufa Mae's hunks

Rufa Mae Quinto had the time of her life in Canada. "I'm overjoyed that the OFWs accepted me not just an actress but also as a concert artist," Pchi beamed. "Busog sila sa tawa sa show namin ni Giselle Sanchez, Pooh and Allan K."

Is her heart equally busog with Canadian admirers? "Dami cutie pie pero sleeping beauty ako parati after work. Besides, I'm dating a Latin-American guy based in Hong Kong (Bobby Lopez), though tagal na kami 'di nagkikita, so my doors are open to the public. Apply na!"

In her next movie "Single" (Viva Films), where she portrays a 30-year-old virgin, Pchi's charms will lure five gorgeous hunks—Alfred Vargas, Rafael Rosel, Paolo Contis, Mark Bautista and Jon Avila.

"Feeling ko nagdadalaga ako while I'm surrounded by my five leading men. Mark plays a probinsiyano, Rafael's a bartender, Jon's a yuppie, Paolo's my best friend and Alfred's a businessman."

Will Pchi have one of each kind?

Carlene Aguilar

Giant shell

Burlesque queen Dita Von Teese fell in love with the giant shell that Anne Curtis used in the opening number during the fab Belo ball recently. Ever so kind-hearted, Dr. Vicki volunteered to send it to Dita in LA.

The shell was designed by New York-based production designer Toto Sicangco who flew in just to do the stage for the same fete. Ruby Coyiuto's Casa Mikael provided the handcrafted masks, decoupage jewelry and Venetian centerpiece. Dita's number was the night's piece de resistance. Tease me, Teese me!

'Sexiest Men'

Dingdong Dantes' charms are too awesome to be confined locally. Now he's set to conquer the world as one of TV channel E!'s "25 Sexiest Men in the World."

Brian N. Potter, E! Entertainment's Rights and Clearances Supervisor, sent Dong's manager Perry Lansigan this letter:

"We are currently producing a television program called 'Sexiest: Men of the World' (the 'Production') where we will feature 25 of the hottest males in the world. As part of the Production, we have decided to include Dingdong Dantes as one of the 25 Sexiest Men of the World! The list is still being generated but we can tell you as of the date of this letter that we have selected the following males: Gilles Marini (France); Kostas Martakhs (Greece); Michael Lewis (Israel); Dan Carter (New Zealand); and David Beckham (UK).

"Here is the series' description: Young, blonde celebutantes may be what you're used to seeing on news stands, but when it comes to appeasing the insatiable appetite of the world, you've got to serve up the hottest most delectable dishes imaginable!

"We cover the entire globe searching for the sexiest beach-hard bodies and delicious divas that can melt you with their voices and crush you with their sizzling sex appeal

"We'll also discuss studs that can capture your attention in a flash, pin-ups with deadly curves, famous footballers with all the right moves and their wives and girlfriends who bask in beauty."

Sexiest GF

Dong's GF Karylle is elated. "So that makes me the sexiest GF on earth (laughs)," K beamed. "More than Dong's physical traits, it's his taking time out to do things that make a difference, like the basketball league he organized to help people. He's not vain. He thinks of others first before himself. For me that's what makes a man."

Dong is still jet-lagged from his trip to New York, but the good news jolted him out of his drowsiness. "It's almost surreal. K and I love watching those countdowns on E! and now I'm part of it."

For Dong, a good sense of humor is what makes a woman sexy. Advice to un-sexy men on how to woo women? "When you court a woman, it should come from the core of your personality," Dong said. "Never pretend to be something you're not. What matters is that you are unique, rather than going with the stereotypes."

Resident hunk

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—On the GMA 7 show "Celebrity Duets," Filipino-British football player Phil Younghusband is the resident hunk—taking over the slot of last year's breakout stud Hayden Kho.

Just like Hayden, Phil isn't a Concert King just yet.

What the 21-year-old athlete seriously lacks in tone and timbre, however, he more than makes up for with grit and gumption—which come in handy both on the football field and in show town.

Filipino-British football player Phil Younghusband.

He says he practices regularly with the videoke in his living room—his favorite part of the condo unit. "When I'm home, I would often be in front of the TV—singing, or watching DVD and football on ESPN."

Another choice spot is the computer nook.

Since mom Susan and little sis Keri are back in London, the Internet is the best way to keep in touch, he says. "It's too expensive to call, so we just e-mail or chat with family and friends on Facebook."

Another fave is the king-size bed that is just perfect for the 5'11" hunk. "I spend a lot of time sleeping."

He confesses that he's been neglecting his sport lately. "I'm singing more now than playing ball."

But he tries to work out regularly—running around the neighborhood, lifting weights at home, or doing cardio routines at the gym.

"It's important to keep fit," says Phil, who joined the Philippine national team after concluding his contract with the Chelsea Football Club.

London souvenirs

Older brother James is the only family with him now, and he has filled the bachelor's pad with little reminders of London: a photo of baby sis Keri in the foyer, Timberland boots and Adidas jackets, football jerseys of Chelsea and Real Madrid (his favorite Spanish team) in the closet.

He insists he's no clutter rat, though. "I'm neither messy nor obsessive-compulsive. I'm somewhere in the middle."

He's encountered no difficulty adjusting in this new home base. "Actually, we visit the Philippines every year, so right now my brother and I are doing well—especially since we love the Philippines and Filipinos."

And Filipinas, too.

$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

Can you afford to retire?

Editor's Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I'm turning 60 in three years and I'm thinking of retiring by then. I've been working as a school principal for the past 15 years, and teaching for close to 40 years now. I enjoy my work, but I envy my siblings who have retired ahead of me. They now live more laid-back lives and get to travel often. One of the things bothering me, however, is my finances. I have some savings and an SSS pension coming, but I don't know if these will be enough to live on for the rest of my life. How can I know for sure? – Mila

Answer: Ideally, retirement is a golden time for most people—a time to stop working, rest, and generally enjoy life. It's something to look forward to after decades of waking up early every day to go to work.

That is, if you have built up enough funds in savings and investments to give you a regular income stream during retirement. Let's face it—pensions from the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System will not be enough for anyone to live on. The pensions may help a retiree with his expenses, but may not be enough to cover all costs.

You said you would like to retire next year. This early, sit down and figure out if you have enough funds to retire.

Start by listing down all your savings funds—these may be in savings accounts and time deposits. Then write down any investment you may have, from cash investments (stocks, bonds) and fixed assets such as real estate properties. How much do your savings and investments earn every year? Check the interest rates for an estimated figure. Add to the list your expected SSS pension amount for a whole year. The total will be your estimated income stream annually starting next year.

Next, determine how much living now costs you. For a month at least, write down every expense you incur every day. Total this at the end of the month then multiply it by 12 to get an estimated annual figure. Add to this amount any expense you may have to pay for yearly, such as real estate taxes, insurance, and the like. You will then arrive at your approximate cost of living for a year. Add an assumed inflation cost, say 10 percent, to get an estimated figure of your cost of living by next year.

Now for the clincher: Subtract your estimated cost of living from your estimated income stream. Is your income stream at retirement enough to cover 80 to 100 percent of your living expenses? Would it grow enough to sustain you for the next 10, 20, or 30 years? Your answer will determine if you can afford to retire next year.

Sadly, many retirees and would-be retirees realize that they do not have enough funds to live on at retirement. If you belong to this group, don't despair. There are still things you can do:

1. Consider delaying retirement or working part-time. You are still healthy and alert, so you can still work and earn. If the thought of working full-time seems tiring, why not try working as a consultant with flexible working hours? You may even work at home at your own pace minus the traffic and daily grind.

2. Consider moving your savings to higher-yielding investments. If your funds are all in a savings account, consider bond mutual funds or unit investment trust funds (UITFs). You may potentially earn more than what savings account may offer you in interest. Be wary of get rich quick offers though – when it is too good to be true, it likely is.

3. Downsize. If you are living in a big home you own, think of selling it and moving to a smaller home. The proceeds may then be invested, and the interest income can be used to cover a part of your living expenses.

4. Think of other income possibilities. If you have a hobby, find out if it can generate income. Many retirees breed dogs, sell plants or crocheted items for extra income.

5. Rebalance your investment portfolio. If you're a sophisticated investor, now's the time to rebalance your asset holdings. Lessen your exposure to stocks and invest more in bonds and cash. At this time, it is more important to keep the value of your portfolio stable than aim for growth. Or, if you have more fixed assets than cash (what financial experts call "asset rich but cash poor"), think about selling those you don't really need—an extra car, for instance. Then invest this in a higher-yielding investment.

6. Live simply. Look at your expenses again and see if there are costs you can reduce. This will free up more money that can be invested or used for more things you need, such as health care.

Take note that we have not factored in any financial help that may be extended to you by family members. While it has long been part of the Filipino culture to help provide for aging parents and relatives, we don't advise that you count on this. The younger generation faces financial challenges of their own.

We hope this has been helpful to you. We wish you the best.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Pandoy's lesson

Sometimes, symbols emerge from the chaos of circumstances: the Joel Abongs and Flor Contemplacions, caught in the thicket of brutal reality. Sometimes, they are given to us. Mang Pandoy, for example, became the potent symbol of poverty during the administration of President Fidel Ramos—indeed, became indelibly associated with Ramos' presidency—after TV host Randy David introduced him to the presidential candidates of 1992 in a Commission on Elections-sponsored debate.

His startling offer on TV (he said he was willing to get himself killed, if a fee of P100,000 were paid to his family) drew a stark picture of the bleakness that descended on the country at the end of Ms Aquino's term. It mirrored the sense of discouragement, the lack of prospects, that many felt in the disorienting wake of increasingly violent coup attempts, or during the interminable power outages.

To be sure, Ramos cemented the connection with Mang Pandoy by inviting him to his first State of the Nation Address; he served as a suitably Reaganesque prop, affecting in his humility, dignified in his polo barong.

More than 16 years after that star turn at the House of Representatives plenary hall, Mang Pandoy passed away, succumbing to tuberculosis that was possibly fertilizer-induced. Sadly, he died as he had lived: poor.

Did the Ramos administration—and by extension the entire Philippine political class—fail him? He had received many gifts outright and been granted a steady source of income by Ramos' political allies over several years; did they give him enough?

Conversely: Did he himself prove to be a failure? The P200,000 loan he received to start a business was a lot of money then (and still is today); the P2,000 talent fee he was paid per week to appear on government television for three years was hardly a munificent amount, but it wasn't a dole either.

David, whose initial meeting with Mang Pandoy as vegetable vendor led to his fateful appearance in that presidential debate, drew several difficult lessons from Mang Pandoy's continuing poverty. "There are limits to charity," David said. "They [the poor] will have to learn to help themselves." At the same time, he noted, "We cannot even blame Mang Pandoy because he was a victim of the dysfunctional structure."

Is it possible that Mang Pandoy's very celebrity had condemned him to live, perhaps even without knowing it, a life of dependence? Politician's promises can seem like a lifetime guarantee—until, that is, the next election.

Perhaps it is best to remember Mang Pandoy at the prime of his life, at the exact moment he served as a nation's conscience. David remembered him in this light. "I was so impressed by his industry. He was always smiling. He was never oppressed by poverty." ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Beasts forget

Glimpses

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
INQUIRER.NET

A troubled society with a perverted value system is threatened by people in pursuit of what is right. In the political arena, whistleblowers get sued or harassed while thieves get away. In the sphere of religion, those who save lives are prevented from doing so to protect the pride of a nonperforming hierarchy. In greater society, those who believe in the value of peace and openly appeal for it can be looked upon as naive, or can even be resented for doing so by those eager for war. Truly, ours is a troubled society with a badly perverted value system.

By publicly appealing for Filipinos to hold the line for peace, I and many others tried to neutralize the historical animosity that was being stoked between Christians and Muslims. When Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) commanders were accused of attacking some villages, there were some calls for retaliation, not by rogue elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) but by mainstream government officials. Beyond that, there are moves to arm civilians. War is not just a possibility anymore. It is almost being arranged to happen.

I was grateful that those who advocate war are not truly representative of the national mindset. Though there are provocations, war as an option is a throwback to primitive behavior. Much of humanity struggles to rise above the cave man, and many have succeeded. Our challenge is to look at what succeeds and take off from there. Others can look at what fails and justify the retention of fear, belligerence and bestiality as the primary mode of settling things.

When the bigger force retaliates, it will do so using its advantage. Bombings by the AFP are legal even when women, children and other noncombatants are killed. The peacekeeper, the law enforcer and the protector become the bully. When the smaller force retaliates, it will bomb as well, and its bombs will not respect women, children and noncombatants in shopping malls or on mass rail transit systems. The oppressed become the terrorist.

Who wins? Who loses? Anyone who is impeded from being a better human being, a better citizen for the country, loses. It can mean he or she is killed, maimed, harassed, driven away, or exploited. It can also mean that he or she becomes a tool for death and destruction, for greed and ambition. All here are losers and dishonor the best of the Filipino by going for the worst in man.

And for what?

We have Filipino veterans who fought in World War II. The few who are still alive continue to hope for recognition and even humane consideration. Sadly, they seek these now from the US government, which has not yet regarded them as worthy as their American counterparts. They were worthy enough, though, to fight side by side to the very end.

As these veterans go through their shame in America, we miss the more important point — that we, too, have forgotten those who fought for us and have forced our patriots to run and beg for recognition and consideration from America. We are not only shamed by the way America treats our old warriors; we put our heroes in a begging position by not honoring their sacrifices here.

Now, some have the gall, from the safety of their offices or protected enclaves, to ask our AFP to go on an all-out war against fellow Filipinos whose main crime is to remember what we have forgotten. They remember that they owned their land, not by title but by birth and by birthright, that they owned their culture and their religion by preserving and practicing them. And they remember foreigners taking everything away from them, by force, by killing their warriors. They also remember their warriors, the dead and the alive, and pass on their stories to children who will be their warriors before they go to high school.

Why should our soldiers feel enthusiastic about fighting and maybe dying for us when we cannot remember those who fought and died for us before? Who are they going to fight and die against, and for whom? The AFP are being goaded by warmongers and political adventurists to kill and maim the only Filipino sector who remembers what their roots are and want to nurture them again.

Muslims in Mindanao are not perfect people. They have blood debts, too. They have their own exploiters and traitors. But they cannot be faulted for remembering, they should be emulated. If we remember that this was our land before, that we owned it by birth and by birthright, that is was our culture and belief system, and then these were taken away by force after our warriors were killed, would that be a crime? Would not that be patriotism?

Why do we look at poor Muslims as though they do not deserve their homeland? It is because we look at poor Christians as though they do not deserve their homeland as well. There are more landless people, more squatters, more poor people among Filipinos termed as Christians than there are Muslims of the same status. Is it because we do not want to remember that they deserve their homeland that we do not want Moros in Mindanao to deserve theirs?

If government believes that the MILF are a big headache, it has yet come to grips that Christians are the greater headache to come. When 50 million poor Christians remember their roots, remember their culture, remember their values, and remember how they were dispossessed, they will be the headache that will rock our country. Some have tried to stoke forgotten memories among the poor, but they made the simple error of stoking it with something as foreign as what they want to excise. That is why there has been no revolution, only sporadic rebellion.

When it is time for all to remember, we must remember that we were once one race, one people, aspiring to reach destinies intended by the Creator. It is the best of us that we must remember and choose to be our foundation. It cannot be the beast that was brought out in us by those who feared our being one, because beasts forget.

Filipinos, remember, and hold the line for peace.

Responses may be sent to jlmglimpses@gmail.com.

The execution of Gomburza

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Ten Metrobank Outstanding Teachers were presented to the President in Malacañang on Monday. All were women. All came from public institutions. In the higher education category, the two awardees both came from the University of the Philippines System—one from UP Manila, another from UP Los Baños. This is doubly significant because UP is celebrating the centennial of its foundation, and the UP sweep upset the awards count of Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University, whose off-court rivalry continues in the annual Metrobank Search for Outstanding Teachers. To-date Ateneo holds the lead.

Waiting in line at the security checkpoint before entering Malacañang, I joined Metrobank Foundation director Chito Sobrepeña and retired Justice Rodolfo Palattao of the anti-graft court Sandiganbayan who were discussing how to inspire the faculty of Universidad de Manila (formerly City College of Manila) to become outstanding teachers. Ascending the grand staircase leading to the ceremonial hall, I told Justice Palattao that Manuel Quezon never signed a death sentence sent him by the courts because of a story associated with these historic steps. Quezon heard that in December 1896 Jose Rizal's mother climbed these steps on her knees to see the governor-general and plead for her son's life. Teodora Alonso's appeal was ignored and Rizal was executed in Bagumbayan.

At the top of the stairs, Justice Palattao said, "Kinilabutan ako sa kinuwento mo." ["I had goose bumps listening to your story."] Thus overwhelmed, he missed Juan Luna's "Pacto de Sangre," so I asked, "Ilan po binitay ninyo?" ["How many people did you sentence to death?"]

"Tatlo lang" ["Only three"], he replied. At that point we were reminded of retired Sandiganbayan Justice Manuel Pamaran who had the fearful reputation as "The Hanging Judge."

All these morbid thoughts on a cheerful morning came from the morbid historical relics I have been contemplating recently: a piece of black cloth cut from the coat Rizal wore to his execution, a chipped piece of Rizal's backbone displayed in Fort Santiago that shows where the fatal bullet hit him, a photograph of Ninoy Aquino's blood-stained shirt taken in 1983, the noose used to hang General Yamashita recently found in the bodega of the National Museum.

Affected by old photographs of the garrote, I took a stroll around Rizal Park recently to see the squat white obelisk that marks the spot where Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora were executed in 1872. Most visitors overlook this obelisk, so I decided to pay silent homage at this site but got distracted by the historical marker with erroneous information. Worse, the mistake is made not just once but twice, in two separate markers. The error etched and perpetuated in bronze is that Gomburza were martyred by strangulation using the garrote. That is what it looks like, but aren't executions designed to be swift and relatively painless? To do otherwise is to indulge in cruel and inhumane punishment.

From what I see of this terrible contraption, the garrote kills quite fast. A metal bar is tightened around the victim's neck and at the appointed time, with a quick twist of a handle, the neck of the victim is broken, resulting in instant death. Contrary to popular belief, the garrote does not produce slow excruciating death by strangulation. I don't want to try it out to validate my theory. No one, except perhaps the Marquis de Sade and others who are into sadism, would find pleasure in a public execution.

To find an answer, I reread the dramatic eyewitness account of the Gomburza execution by a Frenchman named Edmond Plauchut, who described the attitude of the condemned priests: "Burgos cried like a child, but managed to greet with a shake of his head all his friends whom he recognized in the huge crowd. Zamora was like one dazed and unconscious of what was going on. But Padre Gomez, with eyes open and with furrowed brow, blessed the multitude that knelt at his feet as he passed by."

There were actually four men executed that day. The first was Saldua who expected a pardon for implicating the three priests. The pardon never came.

Next was Gomez who had a calm resignation proceeding from a clear conscience and trust in God's goodness. His famous last words were: "I very well know that not a single leaf can move except at the will of the Divine Creator. Since it is His will that I die at this place, may His will be done."

Zamora who had lost his will was technically dead even before he was physically dead. He was executed third.

Last was Burgos who publicly forgave someone who did him wrong as he ascended the scaffold. He sat on the garrote and everyone started to pray more fervently then he stood up and shouted, "What crime have I committed? Shall I die in this manner? Is there no justice in the world?"

In answer to his questions, 12 friars rushed and pushed him back into the chair. "But I am innocent!" he protested.

One friar hissed, "Even Jesus Christ was without sin." Hearing that, Burgos forgave his executioner and gave up his spirit. The crowd saw the executioner kneeling in front of him and receiving his forgiveness, and they also knelt and prayed harder.

The execution of Gomburza was an inspiration for others who fought for freedom. Rizal dedicated "El Filibusterismo" to them. Bonifacio distributed strips of black cloth, allegedly from the robes of Gomburza. No wonder 1872 is a landmark date in Philippine history.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

IMMIGRATION FORUM JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Organizers hand out copies of the presentation by lawyer Nelson J. Xu of the Guam-based L.A. Baumann & Associates during a forum on CNMI Immigration Reform and Non-Immigrant Visa at Saipan Community Church in Susupe Saturday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Community activist Irene Tantiado introduces lawyer Nelson J. Xu of the Guam-based L.A. Baumann & Associates during a forum on CNMI Immigration Reform and Non-Immigrant Visa at Saipan Community Church in Susupe Saturday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

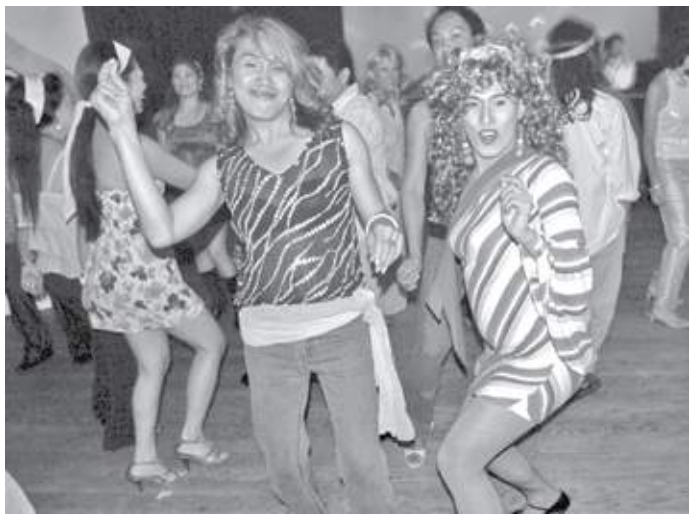
Nonresident workers read copies of the presentation by lawyer Nelson J. Xu during a forum on CNMI Immigration Reform and Non-Immigrant Visa at the Saipan Community Church in Susupe Saturday afternoon.

SINGING V CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aleth poses with her friends during the Singing V competition at the Saipan Grand Hotel Tuesday night.

PARTY TIME CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Queenie Omadto enjoy the night with close friends.



PALOOZA PARTY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Clad in their '70s attire Saipan's partygoers hit the dance floor during the Pacific Islands Club's inaugural Palooza Fundraising Event on Saturday, Aug. 30.

PEACE! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Reef Camacho and Iver Jude Dimaun flash a peace sign while waiting for their moms to finish playing soccer at the Airport soccer field on Saturday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND BON VOYAGE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Janice Bungalos with six-month-old Jahnelle, center, with friends and Northern Marianas Badminton Federation members celebrated her birthday at Sun Palace Inn last Aug. 26. Bungalos and Baby Jahnelle will leave for the Philippines for good today. Your NMBF family will miss you!

7TH SIDE

Saipan Grand Hotel's 7th Side band members pose for a photo at the Banzai Cliff during their tour around the island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY BOY

Ranier Joy Solis celebrates his first birthday on Sept 6, 2008, at the Giovanni's Restaurant of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

Lessons from Katrina learned helped soften Gustav's blow

By TRACY GRANT and VALERIE STRAUSS
THE WASHINGTON POST

Hurricane Gustav slammed into Louisiana's Gulf Coast, killing eight people and causing millions of dollars in damage. But the effects were far less horrible than when Hurricane Katrina hit near New Orleans almost exactly three years ago.

Before Gustav hit on Monday, leaders in the local and national governments worried that it could be even more disastrous than Katrina. That 2005 storm caused 1,800 deaths in five states and was one of the strongest storms to hit the United States in 100 years.

The damage was much less severe this time due to a mix of good fortune and lessons learned from Katrina. Here are some of the reasons:

Weaker Storm

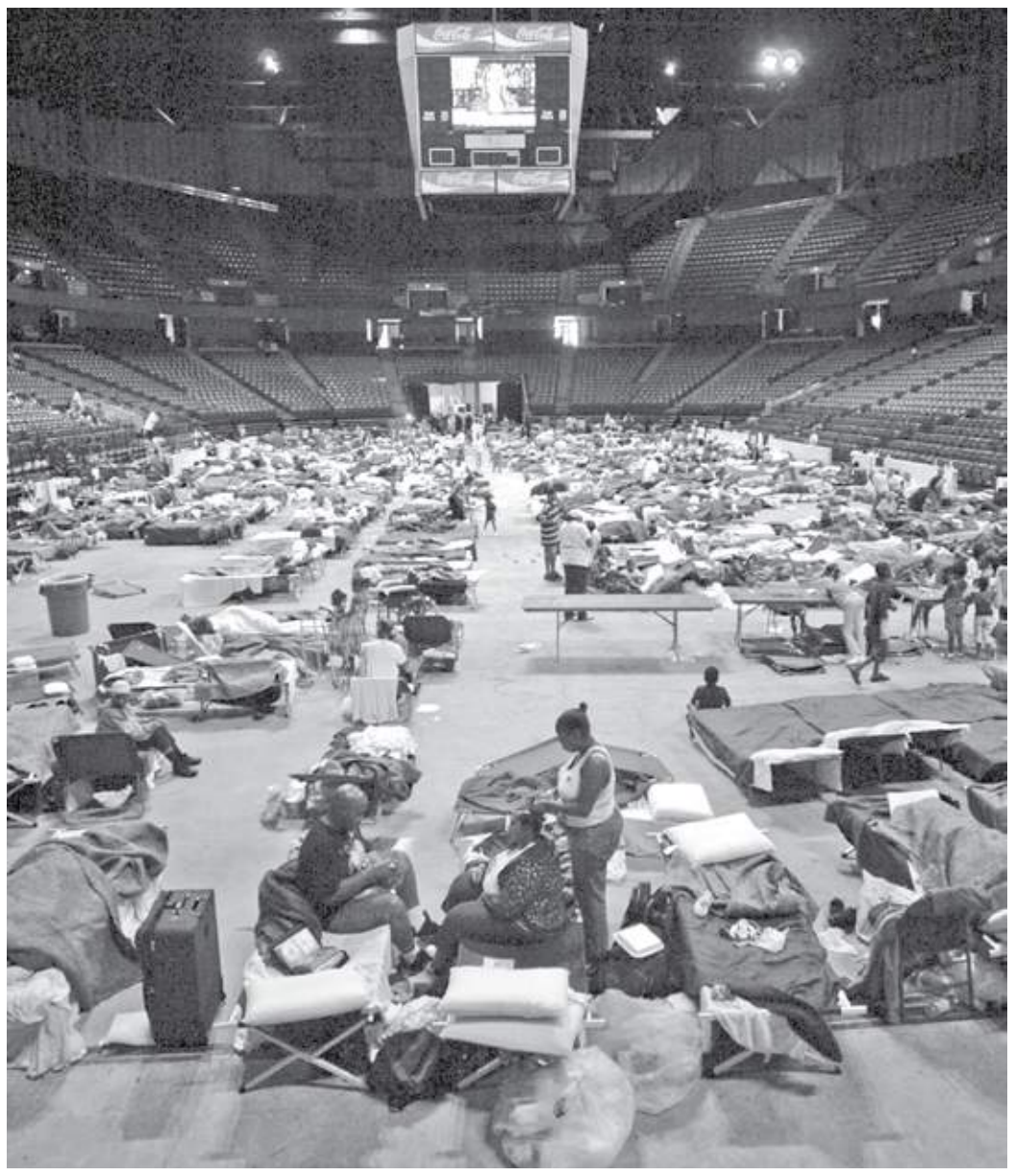
Gustav was a Category 2 storm when it hit land in Louisiana, which means it had winds of 96 to 110 miles per hour. It killed nearly 100 people in the Caribbean before arriving in the United States. Katrina was a strong Category 3 storm with sustained winds of about 125 mph.

Katrina smashed into the coast with a wall of water more than 27 feet high. Gustav hit about 70 miles west of New Orleans without the same impact.

Evacuation

When Katrina hit, tens of thousands of people were still in New Orleans and had to use the city's football stadium and convention center as "shelters of last resort."

Before Gustav arrived, the city and state ordered everyone to leave, and most people paid attention. Of approximately 2 million people in the area around New Orleans, about 1.9 million left their homes for safer places. Many of those people might be able to start coming back home Wednesday.



AP

Hundreds of New Orleans area evacuees from Hurricane Gustav fill the floor of the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Ala., on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008.

Flooding

New Orleans is a city built below sea level, which means that flooding can result from a heavy rain. So the city has a system of levees, which are embankments or walls built along waterways to prevent water from flooding the land nearby.

During Katrina, the levees in some parts of the city failed. In more than 50 places, holes allowed the water to flow into the city, leaving 80 percent of it underwater.

After Katrina, the federal government committed to repairing and improving the levees. The work to make them stronger and higher has begun. Because it won't be finished until 2011, officials had feared the latest storm could break the levees again. Water rushed over the tops of some levees, but this time they held.

What's Next?

With Gustav, New Orleans avoided another "storm of the century." But there is still much work to be done to restore electricity, rebuild homes and businesses and drain areas that flooded. The city's sewer system was damaged and must be repaired.

Meanwhile, hurricane season is in full swing.

Gustav was downgraded to a tropical depression Tuesday as it moved north inland. But Tropical Storm Hanna is on track to become the fourth Atlantic Ocean hurricane of the year. It could affect Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas in the next few days.

Right behind Hanna is Tropical Storm Ike. Forecasters say it is too early to say where that weather system is headed. And on Tuesday Josephine formed in the eastern Atlantic as the 10th tropical storm of the season.

Hurricane season is from June 1 to Nov. 30. We are just entering the period that is traditionally most active. So stay tuned to see what weather develops in the Atlantic Ocean and where it goes.

HURRICANE NAMES

These are the names that have been chosen for any more Atlantic storms that develop this season: Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paloma, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky and Wilfred. ***(The Washington Post)***

How to help storm victims

As you know, hurricanes can be pretty devastating, leaving people without homes, clothing or food. If you would like to help victims of Gustav, check out the following organizations.

Feed the Children
www.feedthechildren.org
800-627-4556

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org
800-REDCROSS (800-733-2767) or
800-257-7575 (Espanol)

Catholic Charities USA
www.catholiccharitiesusa.org
800-919-9338

AP

A 35-foot-long fishing boat rests on the center of Highway 90 near Ft. Pike, La., Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008. The boat was washed up to the highway from a boat yard when when Hurricane Gustav hit the area.

KIDSDAY ADVISER

Kids answer kids' problems

By KIDSDAY STAFF REPORTERS
NEWSDAY

Dear Kidsday: I already am worried about going to middle school this year. You see, I am the most unsocial person in the universe. And I am worried about all the homework and new teachers. Help me, please!—Worried

Dear Worried: If you have friends already, you can't be as unsocial as you think you are. Try to think of going to middle school as an adventure; there will be many new kids to make friends and have fun with. Now, about new teachers and more homework: Don't worry, we think you'll get through it.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Kidsday: I have a problem at school. There is a kid next to me and he doesn't do his work and plays with his pencils and junk. He annoys me and he is very mean. Should I tell?—Anonymous

Dear Anonymous: The best thing to do is try to talk to him first. See if you can reason with him. He may want to be your friend, but he has a bad way of showing it. If you are always complaining about him, that might be getting him mad at you. If it still bothers you, talk to the teacher and see if you can get your seat changed. When you go out at recess, stay away from him if he still is mean to you.

Got a problem? Send your problem letters to: Dear Kidsday, Newsday, 235 Pinelawn Road, Melville, NY 11747-4250, or e-mail kidsday(at) newsday.com

KIDSDAY PUZZLES

What animal are you like?

By LUCY HE
KIDSDAY REPORTER

What animal are you most like? Take my quiz to find out.

1. You enjoy spending your time ...
a) reading books
b) hiking or bird watching
c) participating in sports
d) helping around the neighborhood
e) goofing around with your chums

2. Other people think of you as ...
a) an independent person
b) a friend
c) a leader
d) a helper
e) a comedian

3. You would rather eat ...
a) trail mix
b) a spicy meal
c) scrambled eggs
d) seafood
e) candy

4. What you want to achieve most in life is to ...
a) conquer your goals
b) always be special
c) get an Olympic medal
d) have true friends
e) make your name known

ANSWER KEY

If you answered:

Mostly a's, you are a chinchilla. Intelligent, independent and likes to explore.

Mostly b's, you are a blue jay. Social, outgoing and a nature lover.

Mostly c's, you're a hedgehog. Fast, organized and determined.

Mostly d's, you're a manatee. Shy, gentle and appreciated by others.

Mostly e's, you are a kitten. Playful, fun and popular.

Kids talks with actor John O'Hurley

Nancy Yi Fan

...with author Nancy Yi Fan...

By LI-YAN YAO
Kidsday Staff Reporter
NEWSDAY

We recently spoke with 13-year-old author Nancy Yi Fan at Books of Wonder in Manhattan. She wrote her first book, "Swordbird" (HarperCollins, $15.99) at age 11. It was inspired by a dream she had about birds at war. She was born in China and moved to the United States at age 7.

Question: Are the characters a reflection of your personality?

Answer: All of the good characters in my book share personalities of my pet birds.

Q: One of the good characters dies. Was this your intention from the beginning?

A: It wasn't at first. I knew (that character) was going to play an important role. When I wrote (of the death), I was so sad, I cried. But I needed to write that because then the story wouldn't be realistic.

Q: Why did you start each chapter with a quote from the Book of Heresy or the Old Scripture?

A: I wanted the story to have a historical sense. And by reading the quotes, you can sort of tell what kind of birds, good or bad, that chapter will be about.

Q: Are there plans to make your book into an animated movie?

A: If I had the power, I would definitely want to make it into a movie. I think birds, especially in 3-D animation, would look awesome.

Q: You are working on another book. Can you tell us about it?

A: It's a prequel to "Swordbird" and will tell how Swordbird became (the Great Spirit). It's not like he's born like that.

By GABBY GREEN, LUCY VILLENEUVE and HEATHER WITTMER
Kidsday Staff Reporters
NEWSDAY

We spoke recently with actor—and dog lover—John O'Hurley at a Long Island, N.Y., Barnes & Noble store. O'Hurley has done voices for animated TV shows such as "SpongeBob SquarePants," "Kim Possible" and "Hey Arnold!" He hosts "Family Feud" and the annual National Dog Show. He competed in Season 1 of "Dancing With the Stars."

Question: Your new book, "It's Okay to Miss the Bed on the First Jump" (Hudson Street Press, $19.95, for ages 12 and older), talks about valuable lessons dogs have taught you. Which do you most appreciate learning?

Answer: There are two. One is (dogs) live in the moment. They don't have to be anywhere else, because nowhere else is more important. The other important lesson is about the book's title. Every now and then, we try to do things and don't succeed. Because we've failed, we think we're failures. But dogs will go on and find another way (to accomplish something), and that's really what life is all about.

Q: You compare a dog wagging its tail to a person smiling. How can kids share happiness with others?

A: I think smiling is one thing, because it's the most universally disarming thing. If someone smiles at you, it's almost impossible not to smile back. If we all grew up with a smile, the world would be a much better place, I think.

Q: If you were a dog, what breed do you think you'd be and what name would you like your owner to give you?

A: I love to watch Irish Setters compete at the National Dog Show, with their long, flowing red hair. I think the gait of the animal is so beautiful. I don't know if I'd like to own one, but

John O'Hurley

I guess it's what I'd like to be. I'd want a name that is funny, maybe like Beano!

Q: What category of dogs do you enjoy seeing the most when you host the National Dog Show?

A: I love the toy class because those are the dogs I would be most apt to buy. They're always pound-for-pound the most energetic and so intelligent. They have to accomplish so much; they have to take four steps for every step every other dog has to take.

Q: What was your favorite dance to learn on "Dancing With the Stars"?

A: The smoother styles: the fox trot, the waltz, the quick step. They were long, elegant and flowing. I liked them better than the salsa styles. I also learned them easier; my hips aren't that good.

Q: You've accomplished many things in your career (as an actor, composer, dancer, TV game-show host and author). Which are you most proud of?

A: I'm really proud of my book. I also composed an album ("Peace of Our Minds," with cellist Marston) of my piano music, and I'm proud of that, too. Of the stuff I've done on TV, I'm proudest of (playing fashion mogul J. Peterman on) "Seinfeld." I think it was one of the greatest shows in the history of television, and I treasure the time I was there.

...and with hockey player Ryan Hollweg

By MIMI DOBELLE and HENRY WALLACE
Kidsday Staff Reporters
NEWSDAY

We went to the New York Rangers' practice facility in Tarrytown, N.Y., recently to interview Ryan Hollweg. Ryan is from California. He ranks first on the team in hits and is among the NHL leaders. Ryan's hockey influence was Wayne Gretzky. ``He got traded to the Kings when I first started out. ... He did a lot for hockey and he really promoted the sport and made it what it is today,'' Ryan said. In his free time, Ryna likes listening to music, golfing, fishing and playing tennis.

Q: What was your favorite hockey team when you were growing up?

A: Probably the Los Angeles Kings. I grew up there and played all my minor-league hockey there when I was a kid.

Q: At what age did you realize you could go all the way to the pros?

A: I have been playing since I was 4, and my goal was always to play NHL hockey, so I guess you could say I have been working my whole life to make it to this level.

New York Rangers hockey player Ryan Hollweg.

Q: When you were younger, were you a good student?

A: Yes, I was always a good student. My parents always put my studies ahead of sports and hockey. I was not allowed to play hockey unless I kept my schooling up.

Q: Besides you, who do you think is the toughest guy in the league?

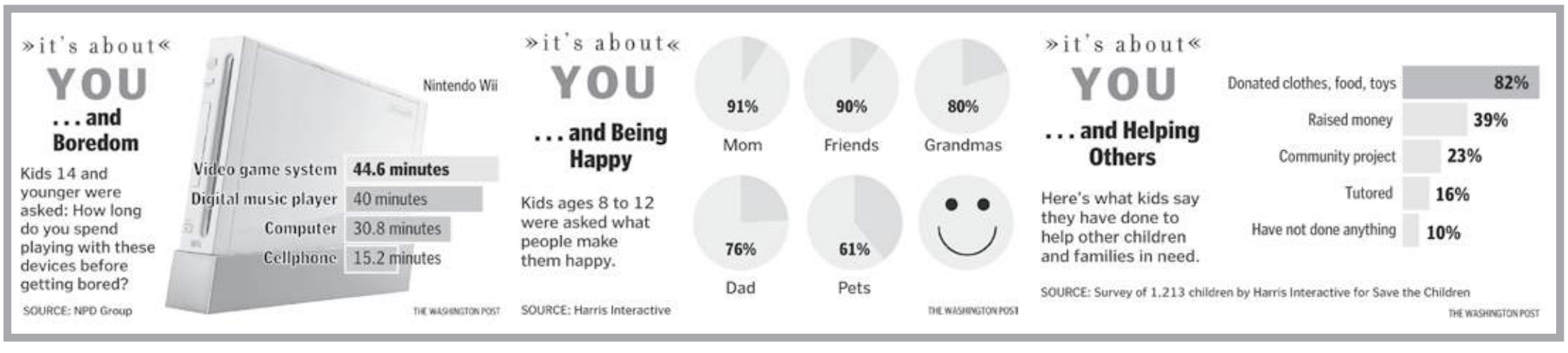
A: Besides me? (Laughs.) I would have to say Georges Laraque. ... He is areal nice guy, but he is a tough guy.

Q: When you were a kid, were any of your friends better than you but didn't make it to the pros?

A: Yes. There were a lot of kids who had good skills. But skills will only take you so far; it is the work ethic and the drive that get them to where they want to go. When you are young, there are a lot of kids who want to be NHL hockey players, but at the end of the day, it is the person who wants to work the hardest.

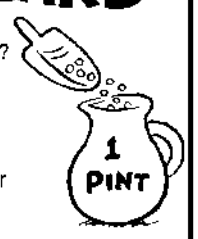
Q: What is your favorite kind of shot?

A: A quick snap shot, and I like going top glove.


»it's about«
YOU
... and Boredom
Kids 14 and younger were asked: How long do you spend playing with these devices before getting bored?
Nintendo Wii
Video game system 44.6 minutes
Digital music player 40 minutes
Computer 30.8 minutes
Cellphone 15.2 minutes
SOURCE: NPD Group
THE WASHINGTON POST
»it's about«
YOU
... and Being Happy
Kids ages 8 to 12 were asked what people make them happy.
91% Mom
90% Friends
80% Grandmas
76% Dad
61% Pets
SOURCE: Harris Interactive
THE WASHINGTON POST
»it's about«
YOU
... and Helping Others
Here's what kids say they have done to help other children and families in need.
Donated clothes, food, toys 82%
Raised money 39%
Community project 23%
Tutored 16%
Have not done anything 10%
SOURCE: Survey of 1,213 children by Harris Interactive for Save the Children
THE WASHINGTON POST

RIDDLE CARD

1. How many peas in a pint?
2. Why is a battleship like a star?
3. What well-known animal drives a car?
4. Why is a crash of thunder like a jeweler?
5. Why is a hat on the head like a bucket full of water?



Answers: 1. One P. 2. Both contain T, A, R, S. 3. The road hog. 4. Because both make the air ring. 5. Because they are both filled to the brim.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE BIG WORDS!
It's not OK to be KO'd by this puzzle! Using the definitions and the anagrams below, find the eight, eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

1.	O						K
2.		O				K	
3.			O		K		
4.				O	K		
5.				K	O		
6.			K			O	
7.		K					O
8.	K						

DEFINITIONS:	ANAGRAM:
1. A sudden eruption.	tour + beak
2. Type of shared meal.	puts + lock
3. Incited to anger.	pork + dove
4. More frightening.	rook + pies
5. An easy win.	veal + work
6. Type of tests.	bolt + skin
7. Supporting framework.	elks + note
8. North American Indian tribe	cook + pika

Answers: 1. Outbreak. 2. Potlucks. 3. Provoked. 4. Spookier. 5. Walkover. 6. Inkblots. 7. Skeleton. 8. Kickapoo.

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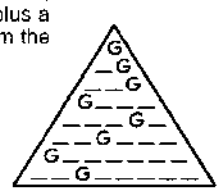
DON'T SCRUB OUT ON THIS ONE! In this back-to-school wardrobe problem, you must replace the letters on the board with the digits 0 through 9 so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.

One Answer: W=4, A=2, S=9, H=1, N=3, D=7, E=5, R=8. (4291 + 237 = 4528)

THE "G" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the G's, Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Slang for $1,000 (given).
2. Inspector general
3. To fit with salis.
4. A facial expression.
5. What a king does.
6. To get back again.
7. A family member.
8. Provoking, displeasing.



Answers: The words are g, IG, ng, grin, reign, regain, grannie, angering.

More than one way to leash a cat

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read your column on cats wearing leashes and wanted to tell you our experience. Our cat, "Baby," is not allowed out of the house without her halter on. She goes to the door and meows when she wants out.

Baby has a 20-foot leash that we attach to posts placed strategically around the yard for her comfort. She lets me know exactly which one she wants to be on. We keep a water bowl handy for her, and she has plenty of shade, room to roam without becoming entangled, and comfortable places to relax. When she's had enough of being outside, she meows for me to come get her.

At 5 p.m., she will sit extended to the end of her leash and meow for her "walk." My husband takes her for one every night. She will go to the end of our property, lie down and wait for him to pick her up and carry her back! No dummy, is she?

She is very aware of her limitations, and in four years has never tried to go to the street. She likes being outside, but does not want to be anywhere where she can't see us. In turn, we don't put her outside unless one of us is at home to check on her.

I would say she is trained, but I believe it is the other way around. Yes, there is a lot of "let me out," "let me in," but to my way of thinking, if you can't treat an animal as part of your family, you shouldn't have one. Their needs are like a child's: love, warmth, food, exercise, a safe home and more love. —Jill T. in New York

DEAR JILL: True words, there. Cat training is more often than not a cooperative venture, and it appears that you and your cat have worked out a way to use the leash that's acceptable to both. Kudos to you!

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ If you're like the typical American, the food you eat travels between 1,500 and 2,500 miles from the farm where it was grown to your plate.

■ It was English journalist, political essayist and novelist George Orwell, probably best known for his works "Nineteen Eighty-Four" and "Animal Farm," who made the following sage observation: "Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence. In other words, it is war minus the shooting."

■ In Florida, there is one boat for every 18 residents of the state.

■ In an interesting social experiment, Walpole Prison in Massachusetts introduced yoga into inmates' routines to see what would happen. It's had a beneficial effect, apparently: Since the routine was introduced, recidivism has been reduced by 40 percent.

■ Paleontologists claim that Neanderthals used toothpicks. How can they tell, you might well ask? It seems that toothpick use leaves distinctive grooves on teeth.

■ Are you familiar with lycanthropy? Unless you're a fan of old horror films, probably not. "Lycanthropy" is the ability to morph into a wolf.

■ Those who study such things say that in a human, the sense of smell is about 10,000 times more sensitive than the sense of taste.

■ The heaviest rainfall in a 24-hour period ever to fall in the United States occurred in Alvin, Texas, in 1979. In that year, a total of 43 inches of rain fell in the space of a single day.

■ Did you know that August is officially Immunization Awareness Month? Yep. I'm not entirely sure what we're supposed to do about it, though.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little."—Sydney Smith

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MAGIC MAZE ● LAKE — : CITIES

X	V	S	Q	N	K	H	E	B	Y	W	Y	T	R	O
L	J	G	S	E	B	P	Y	D	T	T	W	U	R	S
P	N	K	A	O	P	L	A	I	I	S	G	D	N	B
Z	X	V	R	L	Z	E	S	C	E	Q	E	E	O	M
K	I	G	A	E	H	A	U	L	A	K	V	R	R	C
A	Y	C	S	W	W	S	R	V	U	E	K	S	O	Q
P	I	N	O	L	A	A	E	K	T	T	W	J	B	F
D	V	R	T	V	H	N	O	S	K	C	A	J	R	H
F	R	I	A	C	E	T	E	C	A	H	H	Y	A	X
A	V	H	E	G	R	O	E	G	U	U	O	S	H	Q
P	N	M	K	W	J	H	F	E	C	M	M	B	Z	Y

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Arrowhead	George	Ketchum	Sarasota
Charles	Harbor	Mohawk	Stevens
Forest	Havasu City	Ozark	View
Geneva	Jackson	Pleasant	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	−		x		7
x		x		÷	
	−		x		28
−		−		+	
	+		+		20
19		2		10	

2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

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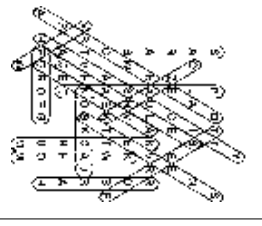
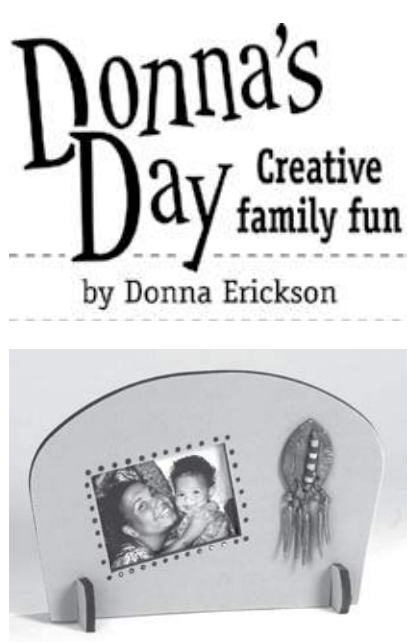
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

3	−	2	x	7	7
x		÷		x	
8	−	4	x	7	28
−		+		−	
5	÷	6	+	9	20
19		2		10	

Showcase grandkids with mouse pad frame



Grandparents can never get enough pictures of their grandkids. With Grandparents Day just around the corner on Sunday, Sept. 7, remember them with the best gift of all -- updated photos of you and the kids! But don't just tuck them in an envelope. Show them off in a frame made from extra computer mouse pads you might have stuffed away in a drawer. Not only do the frames look slick, but they won't break in the mail en route to grandmother's house.

Here's how to make the frame:

Find a special photo. Use it as is or trim off the sides to highlight the portion you want to show in the frame. For a standard-size photo, you'll only need half of an 8-inch-by-12-inch mouse pad.

Cut the mouse pad in half widthwise with a pair of scissors. The cut edge will be the base of the frame. Measure your photo and then cut out a rectangle or square in the middle or to the side of the mouse pad slightly smaller than the photo. Save the cut-out piece for a stand.

To make the stand, cut the cut-out piece in half. These two pieces will be the two feet of the stand. Now, cut out a 1/2-inch-deep-by-1/4-inch-wide notch into the middle of the long edge of each cut-out piece.

At the base of the frame, cut two 3/4-inch slits about 6 inches apart from each other. Widen the slits slightly so that the feet can be snuggly inserted and the frame stands nicely.

Center the photo in the cut-out portion and tape it to the back of the frame. For fun, glue or attach a decorative item next to the photo. For example, if the photo is from a fishing trip, attach a real lure that "caught the big one."

If the mouse pad has designs on it, such as multiples of bubbles, cut out the mouse pad in the shape of a submarine. Cut out circles for portholes to frame several headshots of the whole family. Or if the mouse pad has flower designs on it, use it for a photo taken in a garden.

When complete, wrap and mail to those special grandparents, who will appreciate the creativity and the gesture.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Daddy, I'm in love...and he looks just like you!

PARIS (AFP)—Men tend to wind up with life partners who look like their mother, while a woman is lured to a partner who looks like her father, scientists reported on Wednesday.

Heterosexuals are deeply attracted to individuals whose faces are similar to that of their opposite-sex parent, they said, suggesting that this characteristic is rooted in an evolutionary drive.

A team led by Tamas Bereczkei at the University of Pecs in Hungary created a model of facial ratios—width of jaw, distance between mouth and brow and so on—comprising 14 facial zones.

They measured 312 Hungarian adults from 52 different families using this method. Each family included a couple, along with two sets of parents.

The researchers found a significant correlation in facial similarities between a woman's mate and her father, and also between a man's partner and his mother.

The team tested the model on faces that were randomly selected from the general population and repeated the experiment with a panel of judges, who also picked out the same pairings from randomly selected groups of photos.

Interestingly, men and women focused on different parts of the face when they home in on a potential mate, they found.

A man's lover and his mother tended to have similar fullness in the lips, width of mouth, as well as length and width of jaw.

But for women, the critical features were the distance between mouth and brow, the height of the face, distance between the eyes and the size of a man's nose.

The choices are driven less by psychology and socialization and more by evolutionary pressures, suggests Bereczkei.

Too much genetic overlap—as can happen with incest—is an evolutionary no-no.

But seeking similar genetic traits "may confer individuals with additional adaptive advantages," he wrote.

It could increase the degree to which parents share genes with offspring, enhancing the genetic representation of future generations.

Finding similar partners might also help perpetuate genetic complexes that have evolved to adapt to a particular environment.

There may be an additional bonus, which probably has more to do with happiness than a genetic imperative.

"Human couples who are similar in physical and psychological characteristics are more likely to remain together than dissimilar partners, possibly leading to an increase in fertility," the study concludes.

The research appears in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B. The Royal Society is Britain's de-facto academy of sciences.

VMAs offer glimpse of music and mayhem

AP

Actor and host Russell Brand, left, singer Christina Aguilera, and rapper T.I. at the MTV Video Music Awards sneak preview press conference at Paramount Pictures studio in Los Angeles on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears may not sing at MTV's Video Music Awards, but Christina Aguilera will.

Aguilera will join other top-name performers, including the Jonas Brothers, T.I., Pink, and Kid Rock, host Russell Brand announced Thursday.

Speaking to reporters on the backlot of the Paramount Studios in Hollywood, Brand bantered with Aguilera, who emerged from a limousine, and rapper T.I., who shimmied down a fire escape on a street made to look like New York.

"It's going to be, actually, bloody exciting," Brand said of the awards show, which will celebrate its 25th year on Sunday.

Brand, an English comedian largely unknown to U.S. audiences, displayed his brand of humor that can best be described with one British word: cheeky

During Thursday's presentation, he described the Jonas Brothers as "God's favorite virgins" and racily commented on Aguilera's physique.

Aguilera touted her upcoming appearance as her first televised performance since giving birth to son Max in January. The comedian also poked fun at himself, saying that bulldozers were working overtime to keep his wild mane of hair in check.

Brand laced his remarks "bloody" and "'ell" and a few words that are unprintable. But he also kept the buzz going about the VMAs, an awards show known for creating infamous pop culture moments. Almost as a footnote, he noted that Kanye West has signed on to close the show with a performance.

West has apparently mended his volatile relationship with MTV.

Last year, he famously promised not to return to the VMAs during a tirade he threw after losing in all five categories he was nominated for. The year before, he crashed the stage at the MTV Europe Awards after not winning for best video.

Brand, for his part, seems willing to deliver what MTV has described as a show that will be heavy on music and mischief. Grabbing a megaphone, Brand led reporters through the Paramount backlot, delivering them at a soundstage where Kid Rock exploded on stage—in a pair of white slippers—for a rehearsal.

He also praised Spears, who will open the show, but won't be performing. She could leave the backlot with more than she arrives with on Sunday. Spears has been nominated for three VMAs, including for video of the year for "Piece of Me."

And a strong performance by her could erase some of the sting from her much ballyhooed performance of "Gimme More" at last year's show.

There was no mention Thursday of Michael Jackson, who promoters have tried to lure to the show.

But the show already seems chock-full of two of the elements producers have promised: music and mayhem.

Russell Brand brings a British twist to MTV awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—America, meet Russell Brand.

In his native England, he's a comedy giant—instantly identifiable by his Einstein-like tousle of black hair and formfitting, chest-baring, glam-rock clothes—a television host and standup comic with his own radio show and weekly column in The Guardian. In the U.S., he's that British guy who was in the movie "Forgetting Sarah Marshall."

But that all could change Sunday, when Brand hosts the MTV Video Music Awards—the TV institution that lured millions of viewers with Britney Spears' fumbled comeback last year and her fabled kiss with Madonna before that. Brand said he has no intentions to hijack the awards for his own promotional purposes, but he knows the show will serve as his introduction to a broad American audience.

"It's amazing, because obviously I'm not known in this country, so it's a really unusual situation to be in," said the 33-year-old, noting that past hosts have been "really, really famous." "I think I'd be insane if I wasn't anxious, although I've clinically been declared insane on several occasions. Perhaps my slight apprehension is a mark of my return to sanity."

AP

Host of the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards, actor Russell Brand, poses for a portrait in Los Angeles on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008.

Brand might not be exaggerating about his diagnosis. At home he's known for his hedonistic tendencies and drug-addled past, and he sought treatment for drug addiction and sex addiction. He detailed his storied history in "My Booky Wook," a memoir that was a best-seller in Britain and is due to be published in the U.S. in February.

A movie version of his story has already been greenlit, but the film has been put on hold while Brand juggles other projects, including shaping his American image.

"I was just advised that this is not the right time to do that due to the content," he said. "Also, because really I'm getting a lot of offers to play a lot of other people and I play myself" in the movie. "Maybe that isn't the best way for the people in America to get to know me because that book is kind of candid in some places."

Besides, Brand's schedule is packed. He'll appear with Adam Sandler and Keri Russell in the Christmas family film "Bedtime Stories." He's also co-writing and starring in a film Sandler will produce next year, Brand said. He's reprising his "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" role in "Get Him to the Greek," a film based on his rock-star character, Aldous Snow. He's got another book in the works, and he's keeping up with his weekly newspaper column, radio show and standup gigs back home.

"My entire life is utterly defined by work and activity," he said. "Luckily I work with really talented and well-organized people, otherwise I think I would become ill.

This week, though, his focus is on the MTV Video Music Awards, where he hopes to create a "celebratory" vibe that keeps the spotlight on the performers and winners.

"The focus will only come on to me if spontaneity ensues," he said. "It would be shortsighted and narcissistic for me to make it about me, although inevitably I will a bit."

It's Brand's undeniable charm and knack for spontaneous comedy that inspired MTV to tap the relative unknown as host of its banner awards show, said MTV Networks Music Group President Van Toffler.

"He is both cerebral and straight-ahead lowbrow in the same sense, and he's really got a great take on American culture," Toffler said. "For us it's similar to the first year we had Chris Rock and Arsenio Hall. They were kind of about to bust wide open. (They) weren't huge household names, but they definitely brought the edge and the unpredictability."

Rihanna, the Jonas Brothers, T.I. and Pink are among the performers set to appear on the live show, which begins at 9 p.m. EDT. Miley Cyrus, Lindsay Lohan, Scarlett Johansson and Michael Phelps are set to present awards. Spears will make an appearance, and other surprises are planned, though Brand won't offer any hints.

"I'm hoping that spontaneity will play a part," he said. "When you hear some of the performances that they've got planned, there's so much technical precision required. How on Earth are they going to do that? Surely something is going to catch fire."

It might just be Brand's American image.

More than 40 million people see Palin speech

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack Obama apparently isn't the only "rock star" in presidential politics this year.

After days of intense media coverage about Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin's qualifications, more than 40 million Americans tuned in Wednesday to see for themselves what they thought of her.

The huge audience for Palin's acceptance speech rivaled that for Obama's address at the Democratic National Convention six days earlier, and set a tough standard for the top of her own ticket. John McCain was to accept the GOP presidential nomination on Thursday.

The first two days of the GOP convention essentially served as a build-up for Palin. The Alaska governor hadn't spoken publicly since McCain selected her for the ticket last Friday, as a series of stories circulated questioning whether McCain had properly vetted her.

Her poised speech, primarily going after Obama and touting McCain's case for the presidency, was gushed over by many analysts.

An audience of 37.2 million people watched Palin on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC, Nielsen Media Research said Thursday. PBS estimated its audience at 3.9 million, based on a less reliable sample of several big cities.

AP

Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin acknowledges the crowed at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008.

Nielsen does not count the audience for C-SPAN, which also showed the speech.

Last week, Nielsen said 38.4 million people watched Obama speak at a Denver stadium on the six commercial networks, along with BET, TV One, Univision and Telemundo—four networks that didn't cover Palin's speech. PBS added an estimated 4 million to that total.

Nearly 2 million more women were watching Palin than men, Nielsen said.

Viewers were far more interested in Palin than Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden. Biden's speech to Democrats last week was seen by an estimated 24 million people.

The audiences for the Obama and Palin speeches were bigger than the ones this year for the Academy Awards, the finale of "American Idol" or the Olympics opening ceremony in Beijing.

Nearly 120 million Americans voted in the 2004 presidential election and numbers could be higher this year because of young and minority voters attracted to Obama, and renewed enthusiasm among Republicans for their ticket.

Fox News Channel led the way Wednesday, with 9.2 million people watching Palin's speech on the cable channel. It was the third-largest audience in its history, behind only President Bush's speech on Iraq in March 2003 and a Bush-Kerry presidential debate in 2004.

For each night of the GOP convention so far, Fox's audience has been bigger than any of the other cable or broadcast networks. That duplicates a feat accomplished at the 2004 Republican convention for Fox, the first time a cable network had outdrawn broadcasters for a major news event.

NBC had 7.7 million viewers for Palin's speech, followed in order by CNN, ABC, CBS and MSNBC, Nielsen said.

AARP celebrates 50th with star-studded event

Actress Sally Field speaks during a celebration of AARP's 50th Anniversary held in Washington on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008.

AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Actress Sally Field had some advice for the mature crowd celebrating AARP's 50th anniversary on a sunny Thursday at the Lincoln Memorial: Don't get burned.

"I'm worried about you all," she said. "I hope you put some sun block on!" Field joined tennis star Martina Navratilova, astronaut Buzz Aldrin, NASCAR champion Richard Petty and Elder Bernice King—daughter of Martin Luther King Jr.—to honor the advocacy group for people 50 years old and above.

Leeza Gibbons was the master of ceremonies and Patti Austin and Wynonna Judd sang.

The celebrities encouraged people over 50 to live their dreams, demand affordable health care, be each other's keeper and remember that age is just a number.

Navratilova, AARP's health and fitness ambassador, encouraged the crowd of about 5,000 to take baby steps toward better health and embrace their passions.

AARP has taken pains to show that celebrities age just like everyone else. Earlier this year, its magazine ran a cover with a shirtless Jamie Lee Curtis, the actress who turns 50 this year. She was shown with gray hair, wading in water up to her chest.

David Spade is the father of Playboy pinup's baby

NEW YORK (AP)—David Spade is the father of Playboy playmate Jillian Grace's newborn daughter, Spade's representative said Thursday.

The baby girl was born Aug. 26 in Missouri, and Spade plans to visit her on his first break from filming the CBS sitcom "Rules of Engagement," publicist Meredith O'Sullivan said.

No further details were provided.

The 44-year-old comedian told TMZ.com earlier this year that he had a brief relationship with Grace, and would accept responsibility if confirmed to be the father of her child.

Dr. Green returns in 'ER' final-season flashback

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dr. Mark Greene is coming back to "ER," but he's not coming back from the dead.

Anthony Edwards will reprise the role of Greene, who died of a brain tumor at the end of the 2002 season, in flashback scenes in the Nov. 13 episode, NBC announced Thursday.

Dr. Greene will be shown with other characters from the show's past and during an encounter with series newcomer Dr. Cate Banfield (Angela Bassett), an attending physician at County General, the network said. The names of the other returning "ER" alumni weren't released.

Edwards' appearance comes in the 15th and final season of "ER," which debuted in 1994 and launched the careers of George Clooney, who left the show in 1999, and others in the ensemble cast.

The new season premieres Sept. 25.

Man gets prison for crime at Dunst's NYC hotel

NEW YORK (AP)—A drug addict who was arrested on charges of burglarizing Kirsten Dunst's New York City hotel penthouse suite has been sentenced to 4 1/2 years in prison.

Jarrod Beinerman was arrested on burglary and larceny charges after a security camera captured his movements in Manhattan's SoHo Grand Hotel in August 2007. He was allowed to plead guilty to the lesser charge of attempted burglary.

Police say cash, cameras, an iPod, wallets and purses were stolen from Dunst's suite.

Defense lawyer Mitchell Elman says his 33-year-old client "admitted being in the hotel." He says Beinerman has been ordered to undergo drug treatment.

Elman says Beinerman faces sentencing Sept. 10 on a drug charge.

Dunst

Neither funny biker nor hard worker is woman's right match

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman living with a man, but "in love" with another man whom I formerly dated but broke up with because he's an alcoholic. "Spike" is a true biker—exciting, funny and fun. Our lifestyles didn't mesh, so I made the decision we shouldn't be together. I miss him very much, and it keeps me from being totally committed in my head to the man I live with.

I believe I have commitment problems. I am a psychiatric nurse with 30 years' experience, so I've heard it all and know what I should do, but the issue remains. My boyfriend, "Cal," is a hard-working man with little education who earns very little and cannot help support me. We met when I weighed 300 pounds and had low self-esteem. Still, Cal loved me as I was.

I am a post-gastric bypass patient. I now realize that our lives are very different, and I'm having a hard time accepting that we are meant to be married. I hate the thought of not doing the "right thing" by Cal. I have been faithful. When will I grow up and be able to make the right decision, Abby?

CONFLICTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONFLICTED: If you think that "doing the right thing" by someone is to marry him knowing that he isn't right for you, please let me point out that to do so would be a huge mistake. From what you have written, it is clear to me that you have involved yourself with two men who are not suitable for you—and for the reasons you stated.

While you may be in the mental health profession, it is important that you find a mental health professional who can help you come to terms with the person you have gone through so much to become. I predict that after you do, you will begin making sounder decisions about many things, including whom you want to spend the rest of your life with.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been a volunteer at a veterans hospital here in Maine for the past five years. It has been extremely rewarding. Sadly, I won't be able to continue. Because of the price of gas, I can no longer afford to drive the 100-mile round-trip.

These hospitals are losing many volunteers because of this. If I lived closer, I would continue with the work. I am asking people who live within a reasonable distance of any VA hospital to go sign up. Volunteers are needed as office workers, groundskeepers, people to help transport veterans from building to building in the hospital, and in numerous other positions. I know there are people sitting around bored, with nothing to do. Retired people can sign up, including men.

Abby, volunteers have to take only a short, one-day training class to familiarize themselves with the safety and rules of the hospital. The work is fulfilling, and you even get a free meal if you stay more than three or four hours.

GLORIA P., FREEDOM, MAINE

DEAR GLORIA P.: As sorry as you are to leave, I'm sure the people at the VA are even sorrier to see you go. Our veterans have given so much to this country, we owe it to them to see they get the help they need. Readers, if you're interested, call your nearest VA hospital and ask for the volunteer office.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

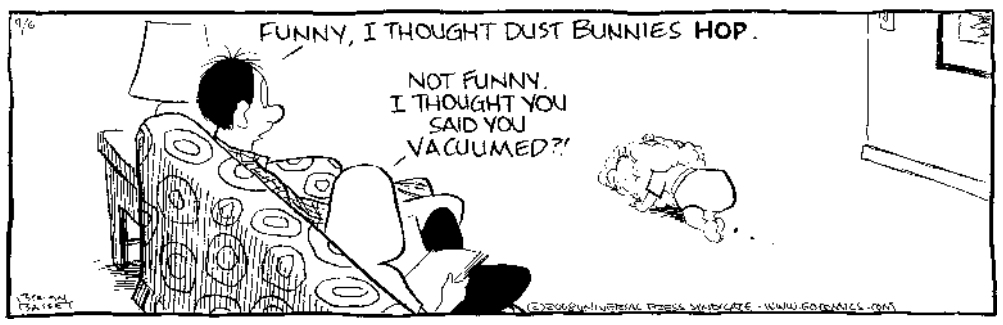
I THINK RITUALS ARE IMPORTANT.
MY FAVORITE RITUAL IS EATING THREE BOWLS OF "CHOCOLATE FROSTED SUGAR BOMBS" AND WATCHING TV CARTOONS ALL SATURDAY MORNING.
AFTER A FEW HOURS, I'M SO OVERSTIMULATED I CAN'T SIT STILL OR EVEN THINK STRAIGHT.
SORT OF A TRANSCENDENTAL EXPERIENCE, HUH?
YEAH. I ACHIEVE A LOWER CONSCIOUSNESS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

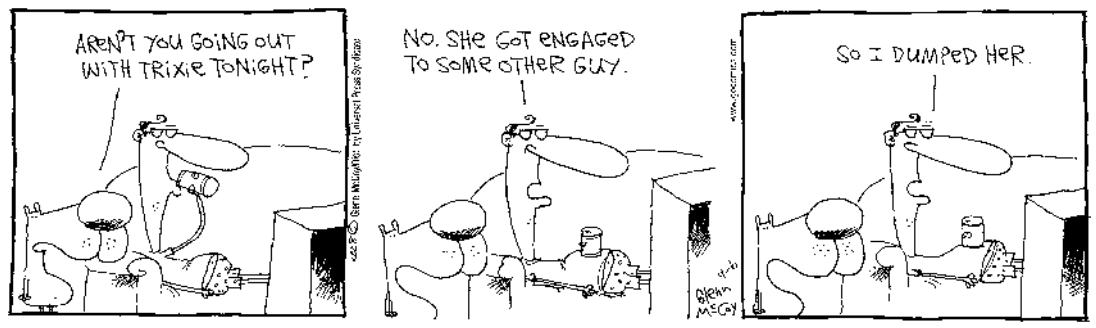
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

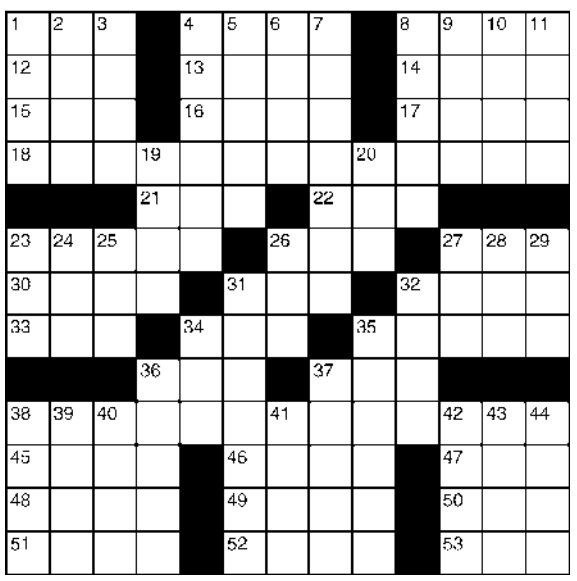
ACROSS
1 Country club staffer
4 Bullets
8 Pulverize
12 Prune
13 Profound
14 Hardly ruddy
15 Work with
16 Lummox
17 Prepared to drive
18 Brain disorder also called BSE
21 Navy newbie (Abbr.)
22 Flowering time
23 Cries loudly
26 Vagrant
27 A mere handful
30 Satan's specialty
31 Felonious flight
32 Greek cheese
33 Joke
34 Christmas tree, often
35 Unclouded
36 ATM ID
37 Non-pro sports org.
38 What 18-Across can do?
45 Be a 51-Across
46 Doing
47 "A Chorus Line" song
48 Encounter
49 Banana holder
50 "Family Guy" daughter
51 Partner in crime
52 Withered
53 Cribbage scorer

DOWN
1 Prune, once
2 Parks of civil rights fame
3 Newspaper page
4 Extras
5 Catcalls?
6 Pinochle ploy
7 Best
8 Fellow sailor
9 Bewildered
10 "— a Lady"
11 Stevenson villain
19 Honeycomb compartment
20 Muppet eagle
23 Plead
24 Actress Gardner
25 Peruke
26 Prohibit
27 Doctor's due
28 Timetable abbr.
29 Series of skirmishes
31 Lists of players
32 Chimney channel
34 Wee tale
35 Wheedle
36 Trivial
37 Pursuing
38 One of the Three Bears
39 First victim
40 Carina
41 Duel tool
42 Cavort
43 Place for a pad, maybe
44 Safecracker

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	E	W		L	P	S		D	A	V	I	S
R	N	A		S	U	M		A	L	A	C	K
J	N	N		A	L	E	X	H	A	L	E	Y
S	U	E		F	L	A	I	L				
M	I	S	S		U	R	N		B	E	E	F
			C	A	P		G	E	O	R	G	E
E	D	G	A	R				G	O	R	G	E
B	A	I		E	Y		S	O	B			
B	Y	T	E		O	I	L		Y	O	K	E
			O	G		E	D		P	O	I	
D	A	N	D	A	I		E	Y		E	R	G
U	B	O	A	T		C	V	E		R	A	T
N	O	R	T	H		R	E	D		A	N	T

Yesterday's answer 9-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Strange, 34; Greg Rusedski, 35; Rosie Perez, 44; Swoosie Kurtz, 64

Happy Birthday: Be insightful and look at the big picture so you can size down and relieve any unnecessary stress. Don't fall prey to someone demanding more than you can offer. You can turn a negative into a positive just by making the right moves. Nothing is out of reach if you pick what's really important to you. Your numbers are 12, 15, 20, 32, 36, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Money is heading your way and will relieve some stressful debt you've accumulated. Don't spend wildly on unnecessary items; set a strict budget. Love is hot but it shouldn't be costly. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll want to travel but, if you do, you will probably go over budget. You can connect with people from your past or older relatives by phone or mail. Sometimes it's more thoughtful to send something rather than to show up on the doorstep. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be emotional, looking for adventure and captivated by someone who may not be available. Don't take chances with your heart. Mistakes are hard to undo, so take the advice of an older, wiser mentor. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Follow your heart and, if it's telling you to move on, get out of the situation you are in. It's all about quality of life. Nothing will change if you don't initiate what's needed to build a strong and solid future. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Travel or get involved in a program that will help you increase your income. A new location or change of scenery will spark your imagination and your enthusiasm. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Tread carefully at home and when dealing with personal matters. You can accomplish a lot more if you focus on your well-being, health and self-image. Forget about what everyone else wants from you and do something for yourself. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Call in favors if it will allow you to spend an enjoyable day away from home. Going to a resort or spending time at a friend's will bring greater perspective about your personal and professional life. Your imagination will conjure up a plot that will help you get what you want. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Focus on what you can do for others and you will satisfy your own needs. Now is a great time to show your stability and determination. A change in your status will result from the impression you make on someone who has always shown interest in you. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Focus on love, getting along and staying out of trouble. Don't initiate something you cannot complete. Don't turn down an offer you receive because you don't want to leave someone behind. You need to move on. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A donation made to a worthy cause will help your profile but it will also cause controversy. Be prepared to deal with the limelight while protecting your integrity. It's your strength and straightforwardness that will lead you to the winner's circle. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Both personally and financially, you can change your life with a couple of strategic offers and proposals. A love connection will be enhanced and, this alone will give you the drive and the added support needed to fulfill a dream. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't play both ends against the middle and expect to win. If you use emotional tactics to get your way, you will end up with nothing. Greed will cause emotional problems with someone you care about. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and intense and know how to get your way. You are charismatic, demonstrative and hard to resist. You can upstage and outmaneuver.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7	3			4	5		8
1							9
			5				
5		3	4	7			
	8		9		3		
		8	2	6			4
			1				
2							7
4	7	6			9		5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	1	3	6	2	4	7	8
4	6	8	9	1	7	3	2	5
7	3	2	4	8	5	1	9	6
5	1	6	2	7	4	9	8	3
2	7	3	6	9	8	5	1	4
8	9	4	5	3	1	2	6	7
6	4	7	1	2	3	8	5	9
3	2	9	8	5	6	7	4	1
1	8	5	7	4	9	6	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EWE TURNS Solution: 5 letters

(S)	R	E	T	N	U	O	C	I	R	C	L	E	D	W
P	(P)	A	C	T	I	O	N	S	S	G	P	H	O	E
L	D	(I)	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	U	A	O	S	E
I	M	A	(N)	E	U	V	E	R	S	H	L	T	G	M
T	C	C	O	L	O	R	S	H	E	T	N	U	E	E
K	O	T	T	N	O	R	F	A	N	I	I	A	M	H
S	N	O	T	T	U	B	D	E	O	D	L	A	S	T
M	T	P	U	S	B	U	M	P	E	T	G	R	H	M
A	R	S	M	D	I	E	E	Y	E	N	O	G	I	S
R	O	Q	N	B	G	W	S	R	S	M	I	D	F	N
K	L	U	O	N	I	W	T	E	U	A	D	L	T	M
E	O	A	A	N	O	P	S	H	R	L	A	M	B	U
R	R	R	N	R	O	T	A	T	E	C	A	P	S	L
D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	A	E	L	B	A	T	O
A	R	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	Y	P	A	N	I	C

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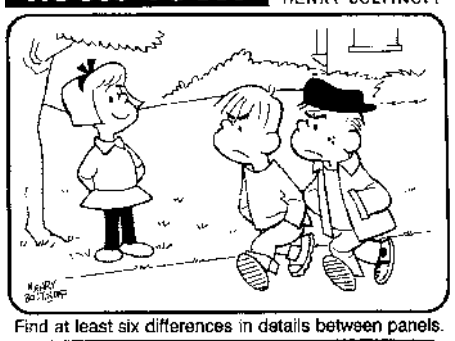
Actions, Ahead, Alter, Arrangement, Board, Bump, Buttons, Circled, Colors, Columns, Control, Counters, Direction, Front, Game, Gate, Gather, Guide, Humor, Lamb, Line, Maneuvers, Marker, Middle, Mutton, Panic, Points, Push, Rotate, Round, Rows, Shepherd, Shift, Space, Spin, Split, Spot, Square, Step, Straight, Strategy, Symbol, Table, Theme, Track, Twist, Winner, Wool

Yesterday's Answer: Haram Mosque

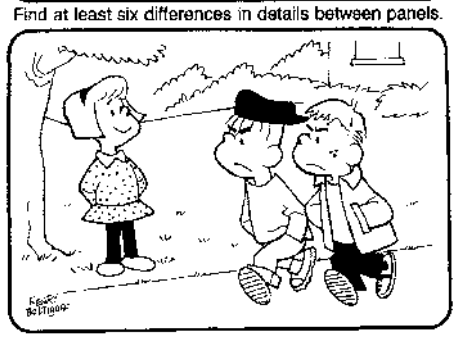
Visit wordwise.com and enter TREASURE to win the latest Wonderword book containing only 250 puzzles, with 50 all-new categories, bonus crossword and more puzzles for $7.95 (plus $3.95 p&h). Or send $15.90 (plus $3.95 p&h) for both books! Make checks payable to Wonderword. Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Or call toll-free 1-800-255-0135 ext. 9883. Order online at wordwise.com

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Dress is dotted. 2. Jeans are black. 3. Different boy is wearing cap. 4. Bushes have been added. 5. Girl's bow is gone. 6. Side window is gone

Wishing Well®

6	2	3	6	5	2	5	7	2	3	7	6	8
S	R	Y	T	O	E	V	J	L	O	O	A	D
7	4	7	2	5	2	8	6	2	3	8	6	2
B	K	I	Y	E	O	O	R	N	U	N	T	G
6	3	2	7	3	5	8	5	2	3	6	4	5
S	E	O	M	N	R	O	C	O	R	M	E	O
3	2	3	4	2	3	8	4	5	2	4	6	5
I	D	C	E	T	H	T	P	M	A	C	A	E
3	5	7	2	6	2	3	6	8	2	5	7	4
O	W	P	S	L	T	T	L	B	E	I	R	H
3	8	7	5	7	5	7	5	7	5	4	3	8
H	E	O	T	V	H	E	J	S	O	I	E	A
5	8	3	8	3	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	8
Y	Q	R	U	S	I	N	T	U	T	P	E	R

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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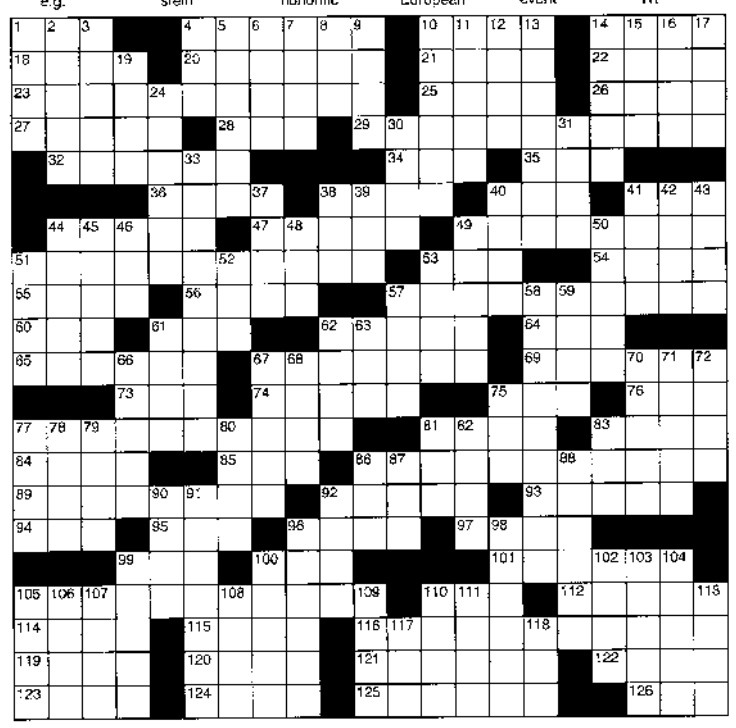
Super Crossword

ALL MINE

ACROSS
1 Start to cry?
4 Representations
10 One of a pair
14 Equipment
18 "— It a Pity?" ('70 song)
20 Posh party
21 Hurler Hershiser
22 Coax
23 Wellington's sobriquet
25 "— Lisa"
26 Lassie's father
27 Austen title start
28 CSA soldier
29 Oahu feature
32 Barber's "— for Strings"
34 Woods' org.
35 Aye opponent
36 Concept
38 Warehouse item
40 Salon request
41 Roth or Reid
44 Photographer Arbus
47 Psychologist Bettelheim
49 "Pilgrim's Progress," e.g.
51 Music center
53 Southern st.
54 "I'm working —"
55 Marathon
56 "— bien!"
57 He devours books
60 Private pension
61 "Pshaw!"
62 Composer Manuel de —
64 Moo — gai pan
65 Occult
67 Prep school
69 Balzac's "Le Pere —"
73 Moore or Tarbell
74 Filleted
75 SDI device
76 SAT's big brother
77 Poe tale
81 Mammy Yokum's prop
83 In addition
84 Barbara of "Perry Mason"
85 "Alley —"
86 Complete failure
89 Chicken Little, for one
92 Peter of "Young Frankenstein"
93 Raptor feature
94 Triumphed
95 Waugh's "The Loved —"
96 Wish
97 Cows and sows
99 Capon ized Mlle.
100 Baseball's Parker
101 Moses or Monet
105 Deciduous tree
110 Cat's dog
112 PC key
114 Merrill melody
115 Rocker Rundgren
116 Dorothy's destination
119 Capone feature
120 "Splendor in the Grass" writer
121 Poe character
122 The Laura Bush of Olympus
123 Protected
124 Like fine wine
125 Byzantine art form
126 Japanese honorific

DOWN
1 Drill accessories
2 Singer Tassie
3 Upright
4 Metric start
5 5th President
6 — -de-camp
7 Baby beetle
8 Toon cry
9 Bird food
10 Vassal's allegiance
11 Smell to savor
12 Late-night name
13 Cozy cloth
14 Overly enthusiastic
15 Cleveland's lake
16 Akbar's city
17 Oliver of "Gladiator"
19 Actress Farrow
24 "Salve —"
30 — facto
31 Granola fruit
33 Like some twins
37 Skilled
38 Shuffleboard stick
39 "— Day Now" ('62 hit)
40 Eastern European
41 Author Morrison
42 Spring bloom
43 Legend
44 Frank book
45 Pizarro's victims
46 Mimic
48 "Treasure Island" monogram
49 Soothe
50 Like
51 Rickrack, e.g.
52 Live and breathe
53 Thin layer
57 "Ethan Frome" prop
58 Kitchen implement
59 Space
61 Hound's handle
62 Mr. Diller
63 Citrus cooler
66 Paper —
67 Head monk
68 Tour de force
70 Northern hemisphere?
71 Bean or Welles
72 "— Wolf" ('85 film)
75 PD alert
77 January event
78 Heavenly headgear
79 Dash
80 Health measure?
81 Buddy
82 Fateful 15th
83 Architect's add-on
86 Prune
87 Cyclone center
88 Stood up
90 Speck
91 Torpor
92 Comice kin
96 Paid attention
98 Michener opus
99 Extra
100 Heel type
102 Foot part
103 Farm features
104 Neon —
105 Perennial panelist Peggy
106 Nanu or Willy
107 Chanteuse Edith
108 Belfry sound
109 Tiller
110 Cello parts
111 Section
113 "Saving Private —" ('98 film)
117 "O Sole —"
118 Fond du —, WI



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the underside of a horse's foot called?
2. TELEVISION: Who played the Hardy Boys in the 1977 television series "The Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew Mysteries"?
3. LITERATURE: Who wrote the book "Starship Troopers"?
4. HISTORY: When did the Philippine Islands gain independence from the United States?
5. ADVERTISING: What company's old advertising slogan said its product was "everywhere you want to be."
6. GAMES: In Monopoly, which gameboard spaces are adjacent to Tennessee Avenue?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In what decade was a standard system of Daylight Savings Time adopted in the United States?
8. MOVIES: Who directed the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey"?
9. ANATOMY: What is the function of the brachialis muscles?
10. GOVERNMENT: What does the 26th Amendment of the Constitution do?

Answers

1. The frog
2. Shaun Cassidy and Parker Stevenson
3. Robert Heinlein
4. 1946
5. Visa
6. New York Avenue and Community Chest
7. 1960s (1966, specifically)
8. Stanley Kubrick
9. Bends elbows
10. Gives 18-year-olds the right to vote

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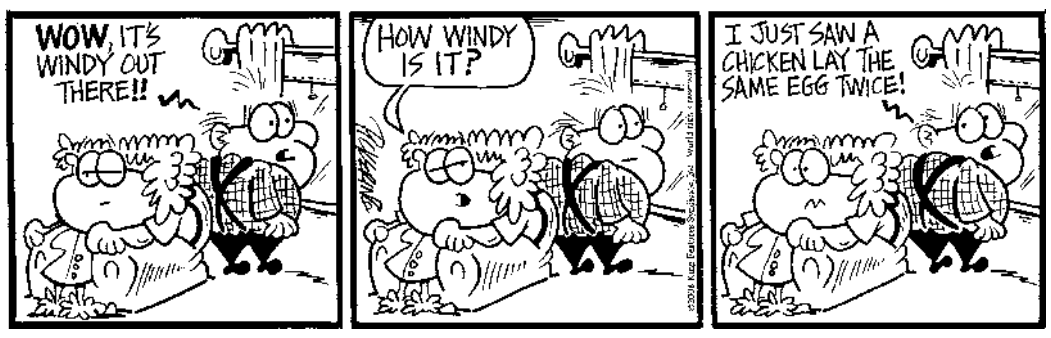
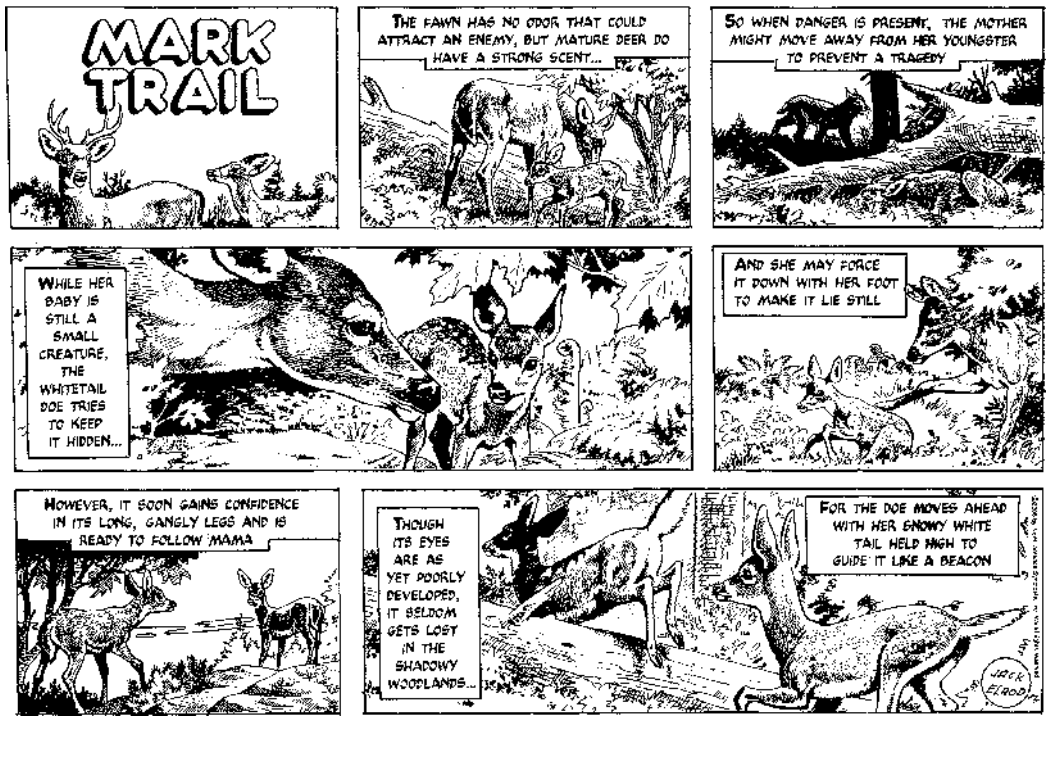
Saturday's Answers

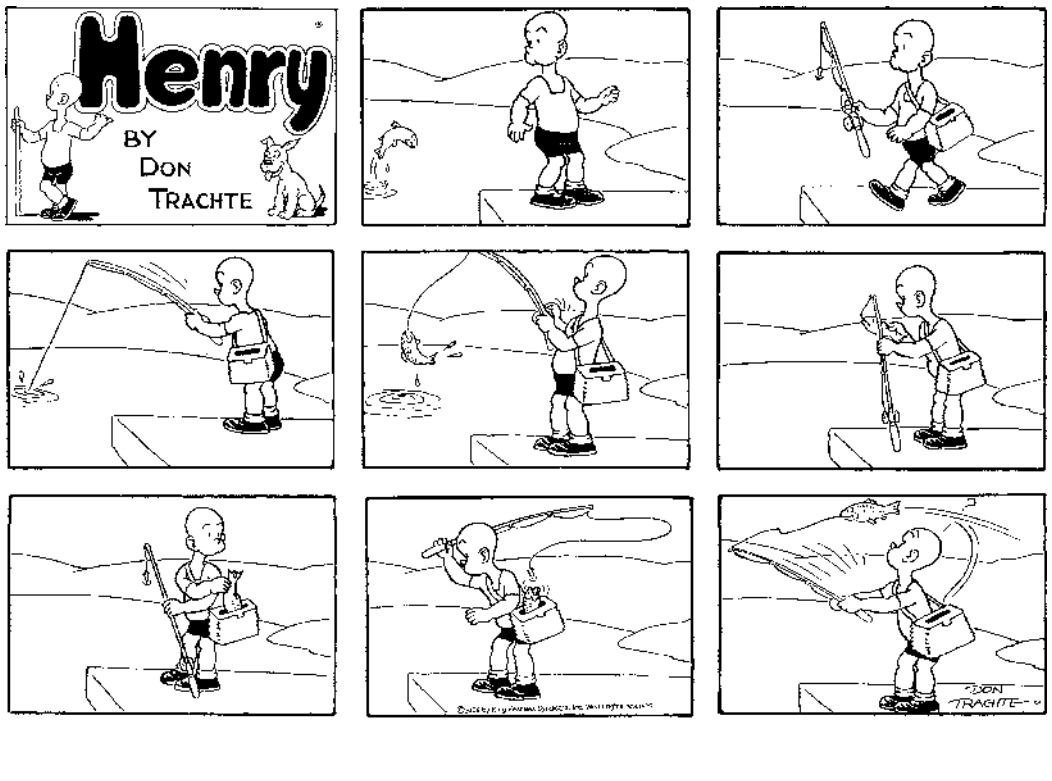
POPEYE
HEY EGSMAN
I'VE CAREFULLY ANALYZED THE SITUATION...
I'VE FOUND THE CHINK IN POPEYE'S ARMOR!
WHEN YOU FIRST STRIKE POPEYE...
...HE DEMOLISHES YOU WITH A RIGHT CROSS
YOU HAVE TO IMPEDE THAT RIGHT CROSS BY GRABBING HIS RIGHT ARM BEFORE YOU BELT HIM!
HAW!
HOW WUZ THAT, HAGGY?
EXCELLENT, BRUTUS!
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WORK ON IMPEDING HIS LEFT HOOK!

Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering




MARK TRAIL
THE FAWN HAS NO ODOR THAT COULD ATTRACT AN ENEMY, BUT MATURE DEER DO HAVE A STRONG SCENT...
SO WHEN DANGER IS PRESENT, THE MOTHER MIGHT MOVE AWAY FROM HER YOUNGSTER TO PREVENT A TRAGEDY
WHILE HER BABY IS STILL A SMALL CREATURE, THE WHITETAIL DOE TRIES TO KEEP IT HIDDEN...
AND SHE MAY FORCE IT DOWN WITH HER FOOT TO MAKE IT LIE STILL
HOWEVER, IT SOON GAINS CONFIDENCE IN ITS LONG, GANGLY LEGS AND IS READY TO FOLLOW MAMA
THOUGH ITS EYES ARE AS YET POORLY DEVELOPED, IT SELDOM GETS LOST IN THE SHADOWY WOODLANDS...
FOR THE DOE MOVES AHEAD WITH HER SNOWY WHITE TAIL HELD HIGH TO GUIDE IT LIKE A BEACON
JACK ELROD



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• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Danilo T. Aguilar, F0198
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Courth Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 234-8801
Fax (670) 234-1251
Attorney for Petitioner
Patrick Romolor Litulumar

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ADOPTION OF BIN YANG LITULUMAR,
minor,
By PATRICK ROMOLOR LITULUMAR,
Petitioner

FCB CASE NO. 07-0275

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Patrick Romolor Litulumar has filed a verified Petition for the adoption of a minor child in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on October 2, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Superior Court, Susupe Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 6th day of September 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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D.O.B : Sept. 13, 1970
Passport No. : 149239608
Contact No. : 483-3121

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CAUTION err err

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OPINION

235- NEWS

Giants kick off Super Bowl defense with win

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The New York Giants kicked off their Super Bowl title defense with what else—defense.

Playing without Pro Bowl linemen Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora, the defense limited the new-look Washington Redskins to 11 first downs and 209 total yards and gave indications that these Giants are back for another run in a 16-7 victory that ushered in the NFL season on Thursday night.

Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning, Plaxico Burress and the rest of the offense that started the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots also came up big in spoiling the debut of Redskins coach Jim Zorn and his West Coast offense.

Manning capped a game-opening 84-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown run and recently signed John Carney kicked three field goals as the Giants scored on their first four possessions in posting a rare home win. They won their final 11 away from Giants Stadium in capturing their third Super Bowl, but they were 3-5 at home, losing the last four games.

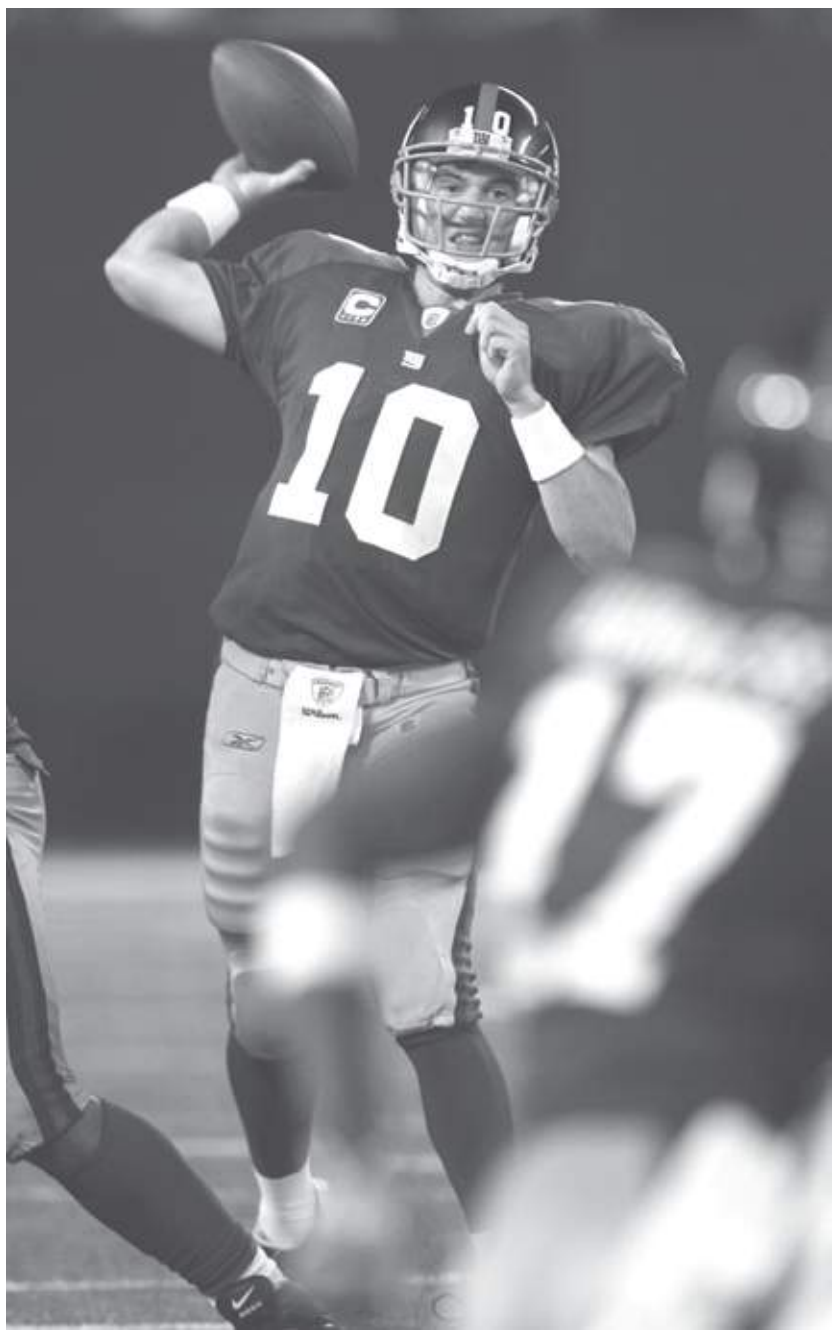
Coordinator Steve Spagnuolo and his defense made sure that streak came to an end, and in the process might have made Redskins owner Dan Synder think twice about trying harder to hire Spagnuolo. He was a serious candidate to replace Joe Gibbs until backing out to stay with the Giants.

Zorn eventually got the job.

Jason Campbell threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Santana Moss with 13 seconds to play in the first half to account for the Redskins' points. The score was set up by a Giants' special teams lapse, a 50-yard kickoff return by Rock Cartwright.

Washington only got in New York territory three times in the game, the last time in the final seconds.

The only concern for the Giants was that defensive end Mathias Kiwanuka went down with an ankle injury on the final play, but he said after the game that he was OK. He was switched from linebacker to end when Umenyiora was lost for the season with a knee injury in the preseason.



AP

New York Giants' Eli Manning looks for a receiver during the second half of an NFL football game against the Washington Redskins at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008.

Other than that the game belonged to the Giants, who have been overlooked when it comes to their chances of repeating. Their odds were 25-1 heading into the game.

The game started with fanfare as Strahan, who retired in June after a 15-year career that saw him earn seven Pro Bowl berths, showed off the Lombardi Trophy and got a standing ovation.

Manning (19-of-35 for 216 yards), Burress (10 catches for 133 yards) and halfback Brandon Jacobs (21 carries for 116 yards) had the fans on their feet time for the rest of the half.

Manning completed passes of 30, 19 and 11 yards to Burress on the opening drive.

Burress signed a two-year contract extension just hours before the game that will pay him an average of $7 million annually for the next five years. He more than earned his money on the 11-play opening drive, especially on the last catch.

He caught a third-down pass and was hit by Fred Smoot as the pass arrived, causing the ball to pop in the air. Burress reached out and hauled it in.

Manning's TD run on a naked rollout came one play after a pass-interference penalty gave New York a first-and-goal at the 1.

Carney, signed on Saturday after a knee injury sidelined Lawrence Tynes, kicked a 24-yard field goal to push the lead to 10-0 on the Giants' second possession. It capped a nine-play, 45-yard drive that featured a bruising 17-yard run by Jacobs on which he bowled over safety LaRon Landry.

The Giants' defense, which led the league with 53 sacks last season, contributed to the score by forcing Washington to a three-and-out series in Zorn's debut of the West Coast offense.

Justin Tuck, who replaced Strahan at left end, started the series, with a sack.

Carney's 25-yarder was set up by a 23-yard pass to Sinorice Moss, Santana's brother. The drive for the third field goal was highlighted by a 24-yard run by Jacobs that was one step away from a 70-yard touchdown run until Landry got him around the ankle.

Campbell finished 15-of-27 for 133 yards, but he was very ineffective on third down. Washington converted only three of 13 tries.

Federer reaches 18th major semifinal in a row

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Federer edged 130th-ranked qualifier Gilles Muller 7-6 (5), 6-4, 7-6 (5) at the U.S. Open on Thursday to reach the semifinals for the 18th consecutive Grand Slam tournament

It was Federer's 32nd victory in a row at Flushing Meadows, where he has won the past four championships.

Despite playing a man who never before was past the third round at a major event, Federer had some trouble. He wasted six set points in the opener but closed it out on his seventh chance when Muller missed a backhand volley. Federer only went 1-for-11 on break-point chances.

"Today was particularly difficult—the sun, the wind, and he's been serving great," Federer told the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd. "I didn't get that many opportunities."

No other man has played in more than 10 major semifinals in a row. Bidding for a 13th Grand Slam title, which would move him one shy of Pete Sampras' record, Federer will meet No. 3 Novak Djokovic or No. 8 Andy Roddick in the semifinals. Djokovic and Roddick were to play Thursday night.

"It's going to be a tough match, either way," Federer said.

Really, Roger? Perhaps you've forgotten that you are 15-2 against Roddick, 6-2 against Djokovic.

Saturday's other men's semifinal will be No. 1 Rafael Nadal vs. No. 6 Andy Murray.

In the women's semifinals Friday, two-time champion Serena Williams will face Dinara Safina, and Jelena Jankovic will meet Elena Dementieva. One of the four will move up to No. 1 in the rankings after the tournament.

Federer spent a record 237 consecutive weeks atop the men's rankings from February 2004 until last month, when Nadal supplanted him. That's only one of the streaks Federer has seen snapped this year.

He reached a record 10 consecutive major finals, until losing to Djokovic in the Australian Open semifinals in January. He won a record-tying five consecutive Wimbledon titles, until losing a 9-7 fifth set to Rafael Nadal in near-darkness in July. He was seeded No. 1 at 18 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments until Nadal relegated him to No. 2 at this one.

"There's a lot at stake for him, obviously, as far as, you know, not having won a major this year and losing a No. 1 ranking. So he seems to be obviously very focused and is playing better," said Patrick McEnroe, the U.S. Davis Cup captain who is coaching Roddick at the Open.

"I don't think he's playing quite at the level that he was in the last couple years," McEnroe added, "but he's certainly capable of turning it around."

Federer did exactly that in the final tiebreaker against Muller, the only man from Luxembourg to enter a major tennis tournament.

Trailing 4-1, Federer took six of the final seven points, including a cross-court backhand passing shot to get to match point. It was the sort of brilliant stroke Federer often produces, but he marked this one with a loud shout of "Come on!"

When Muller put a backhand into the net on the next point, the tighter-than-expected match was over and Federer finally could smile.

QB *Culpepper retires from* NFL

MIAMI (AP)—Daunte Culpepper summed up his thoughts Thursday in two words, which ushered in the start of a new era for the former Pro Bowl quarterback. "Farewell NFL," he wrote. With that, a career once filled with such promise came to a most unceremonious end.

Culpepper, who starred for the Minnesota Vikings before a major knee injury in 2005 curtailed his career, announced his retirement in an e-mail Thursday morning, saying he's simply grown tired of fighting for one more opportunity.

The 31-year-old was the Vikings' first-round draft choice in 1999, became their full-time starter a year later, and teamed with Randy Moss to pile up yards and touchdowns at an impressive rate.

But he hurt his right knee in October 2005, never played for the Vikings again, and never seemed to return to his past level, either.

"When free agency began this year, I had a new sense of excitement about continuing to rebuild my career in the same way that I had rebuilt my knee after my catastrophic injury in 2005," Culpepper said. "Unfortunately, what I found out was that the league did not share any of the optimism about me as an unrestricted free agent that I expected. In fact, there was an overwhelming sense that there was no room for me among this year's group of quarterbacks."

The Miami Dolphins acquired him in 2006 in exchange for a second-round pick, but Culpepper played only four games before being shut down because of continued knee problems. He was sacked 21 times in those four games, and his brief stint with Miami had two compelling images:

■ Getting sacked seven times in his first home game, where fans booed him by halftime.

■ Walking off the field during minicamp in June 2007 because the Dolphins wouldn't let him play, and flanked by a team security official.

"Now that dream to get back on the field and prove everybody wrong is behind him," said Dolphins defensive lineman Vonnie Holliday, who talked to Culpepper about his ongoing comeback quest this summer. "It has to be tough. ... When he was healthy, he was definitely one of the best."

Last season, the Oakland Raiders took a shot on Culpepper, and he made five starts there, albeit only getting five touchdown passes in those games. And over the past few months, he tried to get any opportunity around the league, even saying just last week that he'd be willing to be Aaron Rodgers' backup in Green Bay.

There were no takers, and Culpepper saw no reason to keep waiting.

"Since I was not given a fair chance to come in and compete for a job, I would rather move on and win in other arenas of life," Culpepper said.

In Minnesota, Culpepper's decision was met with disappointment, even though he hadn't played there for years.

"Very surprising. Surprising that he hasn't gotten a job, too. Sad," Vikings safety Darren Sharper said. "Last year I didn't think he played bad in Oakland. I've seen quarterbacks that are still playing in this league today play a lot worse. ... And they still have jobs. So I don't know the reason for it."

Culpepper completed 64 percent of his passes in a nine-year career, with 142 touchdowns. The 6-foot-4, 265-pounder out of Central Florida was a three-time Pro Bowl selection, and he was at his best in 2004, when he established career-highs in yards (4,717), touchdowns (39) and passing rating (110.9).

Then came the knee injury, and it all went downhill from there, even though Culpepper—who has served as his own agent and announced his retirement in an e-mail—believes he can still compete.

"No matter what I did or said, there seemed to be a unified message from teams that I was not welcome to compete for one of the many jobs that were available at the quarterback position," Culpepper said.

Culpepper said, without citing anyone by name, that he was told he'd get a chance with some teams this season when other quarterbacks got injured. Friends, family members and "league personnel" also advised him, Culpepper said, to continue waiting for a chance and postponing any decision on retirement.

Hunter, Santana lead Angels over Tigers, 7-1

DETROIT (AP)— Torii Hunter homered to back Ervin Santana, and the Angels beat the Tigers 7-1 Thursday to cut their magic number to six for clinching their fourth American League West title in five seasons.

Santana (15-5) struck out eight in 7 1-3 innings, allowing one run and six hits.

"He's as consistent as any pitcher I've seen," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He's approaching 30 starts, and he's throwing as well as he did in start five or six."

Santana, who won his first six decisions this year, is 4-0 in seven starts since July 27.

Detroit (67-73), which hasn't been at .500 since Aug. 2, advanced just two runners past first base before Curtis Granderson's homer in the eighth.

Royals 5, Athletics 4, 10 innings
Royals 9, Athletics 6

At Kansas City, Missouri, Jose Guillen drove in three runs, Kyle Davies ended a four-game losing streak and Kansas City swept a doubleheader from Oakland.

The Royals jumped out to a 9-1 lead in the second game and finished with 15 hits.

Oakland scored three in the seventh and two in the ninth to cut it to 9-6 before Ramon Ramirez finished for his first career save.

Oakland had a chance in the first game and tried to rally from a big deficit in the second, but continued its free fall in the standings. The A's were four games behind AL West-leading Los Angeles on July 11 and have lost 35 of 47 since, dropping 22 1/2 games behind the Angels.

Rays 7, Yankees 5

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Scott Kazmir allowed one hit in six scoreless innings, and Tampa Bay's bullpen weathered ninth-inning home runs by Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez to hang on for a victory over the Yankees.

Willy Aybar homered and drove in three runs for the AL East-leading Rays, who avoided a three-game sweep and extended their lead in the division over second-place Boston to 3 1/2 games.

The Red Sox, who face Tampa Bay six times over the next two weeks, were idle.

Kazmir (11-6) limited the Yankees to Cody Ransom's fifth inning double, walked five and struck out seven, but a high pitch-count (98) prevented him from going deeper into the game.

Blue Jays 9, Twins 0

At Toronto, Jesse Litsch threw a four-hit shutout and Toronto completed a three-game sweep of Minnesota.

Litsch (10-8) walked two and struck out three and is 2-1 with a 0.94 ERA in four starts since being recalled from Triple-A on Aug. 14.

Travis Snider hit his first career home run and went 3-for-4 with two RBIs to help Toronto beat Minnesota for the ninth straight meeting. He also walked and scored twice while Joe Inglett and Alex Rios each drove in a pair as Toronto broke it open with a five-run eighth inning.

Twins right-hander Kevin Slowey (11-9) allowed three runs in 5 2-3 innings to lose for the first time in six starts. He walked none and struck out three.

Padres 5, Brewers 2

At Milwaukee, Will Venable hit his first career homer and the San Diego Padres beat Milwaukee, handing the slumping Milwaukee Brewers their fourth straight loss.

Nick Hundley and Luis Rodriguez each drove in two runs for San Diego, which had lost nine straight on the road and is tied with Washington and Seattle for the fewest wins in the majors.

With all of the National League's playoff hopefuls taking the day off, maybe Milwaukee should have, too. The Brewers' wild-card lead was trimmed to four games over Philadelphia, and they fell five games behind NL Central-leading Chicago with 22 games left.

Fresh off being swept by the New York Mets, Milwaukee fell to 0-4 on a 10-game homestand, but this loss was much more troubling.

The Padres, mired in last in the NL West, took advantage of every opportunity Jeff Suppan (10-8) and Milwaukee gave them.

Shawn Estes (2-1), making his first start since May after being sidelined with a broken left thumb, allowed one run and seven hits over six innings for San Diego. Trevor Hoffman allowed a leadoff single to Jason Kendall in the ninth before finishing for his 28th save.

J.J. Hardy hit his 22nd homer for the Brewers.

Reds 8, Pirates 6

At Cincinnati, Joey Votto hit a solo homer and a tiebreaking, bases-loaded single in the eighth inning, completing Cincinnati's rally from a five-run deficit.

By scoring three times in the eighth, Cincinnati avoided a sweep by the Pirates, who have dropped 11 of their last 13 games.

Craig Hansen (0-3) couldn't hold a one-run lead in the eighth, when his wild pitch let in the tying run. Votto's run-scoring single off T.J. Beam put the Reds ahead for the first time, and Edwin Encarnacion followed with a sacrifice fly.

Nick Masset (1-0), who came to the Reds in the trade that sent Ken Griffey Jr. to the White Sox, got the victory despite giving up a solo homer to Nate McLouth in the eighth. Francisco Cordero pitched out of a threat in the ninth for his 27th save in 33 chances.

Braves 2, Nationals 0

At Atlanta, James Parr tossed six sharp innings in his major league debut, leading Atlanta past Washington.

Parr (1-0) surrendered just two hits—both to Ronnie Belliard—walked three and struck out three. Jeff Bennett worked the seventh, Julian Tavarez pitched the eighth and Mike Gonzalez got three outs to complete the five-hitter, Atlanta's seventh shutout of the season.

Gonzalez has converted all nine of his save opportunities this season and 39 straight overall, the longest current streak in the major leagues, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Shairon Martis (0-1) also pitched well for Washington in his major league debut, allowing two runs and four hits in five innings. Belliard went 3-for-3.

RANGAMAR

From Page 28

lant teammates, as the DCCA gunner redeemed himself from a previous ill-advised 3-point attempt, going into the last two minutes of the game.

Half of the credit in DCCA's victory must be given to Camacho, whose eight straight points in a span of three minutes brought his team back into the game after trailing by as much as nine points in the fourth quarter, 76-67.

Camacho completed a 3-point play, making a fastbreak layup and drilling the bonus shot off a Palacios foul to move DCCA within one, 75-76, with 2:14 left on the clock.

David Palacios temporarily stopped the bleeding for BOG, nailing a triple from the left baseline and giving his team a breather, 79-75, going into the last two minutes of the game.

Van Buren made a layup to cut the lead to two, 77-79, and DCCA had a chance to tie the game when BOG missed on its next offensive set. After Gus Palacios muffed his layup, DCCA collared the rebound and went for a fastbreak play with Rangamar, Mario Sablan, and Romeo Iginoef running to their frontcourt.

It was a 3-on-2 situation, favoring DCCA, but instead of driving hard to the basket, Rangamar opted for a triple and missed, with the ball hitting the back of the board.

Villacrusis countered with a triple, increasing BOG's lead to five, 82-77, with less than a minute left in the game.

DCCA refused to give up as Van Buren made an undergoal stab on a missed triple from Joey Dela Cruz, cutting the Express lead to three, 79-82.

A double dribble violation by Gus Palacios gave the ball back to DCCA, which had another chance to tie the game, but Van Buren muffed his triple.

Camacho got the offensive rebound and was fouled on his way to the basket. He drilled his first free throw, but missed the second for an 82-80 tally, in favor of BOG.

The Express' James Lee claimed the rebound and passed the ball to Pelisamen, who was fouled by Camacho before he was able to cross the center court.

But Pelisamen failed to can the pressure-packed free throws, giving DCCA a chance to steal the game.

Rangamar seized the opportunity, drilling the game-winning basket.

DCCA 83 – P. Camacho 26, Van Buren 16, Rangamar 14, Iginoef 10, Benavente 6, C. Camacho 5, Dela Cruz 3.

BOG 81 – Villacrusis 36, Pelisamen 15, Taisacan 9, Lee 9, D. Palacios 5, Peters 5, Imperial 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-16, 34-37, 58-54, 83-82.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

G-STARS

From Page 28

(1-0), Suns seventh (0-1).

Luigi Reyes and Roy Norita led the Saints' offensive thrust as they poured in 28 and 24 points, respectively but the team couldn't get their rhythm back into the game following an early close match.

Earlier, the Saints also dropped their opening game of the season to the front-running Southern Sonics, who scored yet another domineering 91-56 count on Sept. 3.

G-Stars 76 – N. Mateo 21, L. Rangamar 17, D. Mateo 9, S. Rangamar 7, Palacios 7, Sablan 5, Kenty 4, Jung 3, Manalili 2, Guerrero 1.

C.K, Saints 67 – Reyes 28, Norita 24, Masga 4, Nedic 4, Cruz 4, J. Lizama 2, Iglesias 1,

Scoring by halves: 38-30, 76-67.

Referees: Connie Camacho.

NICKY

From Page 28

one run at the resumption of Game 5 to complete its domination of the 2008 season. Rock Steady was unbeaten in the regular season with a 14-0 record.

San Nicolas was eventually hailed Finals MVP for his sterling performance in fifth and final game. The said trophy looked nice beside his Best Pitcher award after recording a miniscule ERA of 0.81 per contest during the season.

Aside from starring for Rock Steady, San Nicolas has also been a mainstay of CNMI All-Star teams in the Little League and represented the Commonwealth in the recent 2008 Big World Series in Easley, South Carolina.

Zapanta, for his part, won the August Male Student Athlete of the Month award after capturing his sixth Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last Aug. 24 at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

The 13-year-old Saipan Southern High School incoming freshman's victory in the August tilt was his third straight and followed similar triumphs in the June and July editions of the monthly competition organized by Saipan Bowling Association and sponsored by MARPAC.

The son of bowling officials Ross and Gigi Zapanta tattooed 737 pins in the four-game series to finish with an average of 184.25.

Zapanta had low-key start, rolling a pedestrian 155 in his first game before getting going with a tournament-high 213 in the second. He ended his evening with solid scores of 183 and 186 in the third and fourth games, respectively.

Aside from reigning supreme in the June to August roll-offs, Zapanta also won the February, March, and May competitions of the Bing Prince of the Lanes.

NMBF

From Page 28

teaming up with Gigi Zapanta to rule the women's doubles—a 21-15, 18-21, 21-19 triumph over Diane Dar Juan and Merlie Savellano.

Bungalos said leaving the CNMI for the Philippines is bitter-sweet as she will surely miss playing badminton at the Ada Gym, friends at NMBF, and not to mention the frequent "food trips" the group seemingly organize just for the heck of it.

NMBF president Marconi Calindas wished Bungalos good luck in her new life in the Philippines. He, however, shares the club's mixed feelings as they lose another of their members.

"It's once again sad to lose one of our excellent female players in the CNMI. Janice has been a great member and committee member who has shown a team player character whenever the group needs her assistance. We are grateful for the commitment she's given to NMBF. NMBF will never be the same without her. Her contribution is truly unparalleled, the main reason the group still exists right now. I hope she continues to play the sport back home."

Bungalos is taking Calindas' advise to heart and said she will certainly join a badminton club as soon as she gets settled in Las Pinas, Metro Manila.

She, however, said that she will remain loyal to NMBF and promised everyone that she's only a phone call away for members visiting the Philippines.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	85	53	.616	–
Boston	82	57	.590	3 1/2
New York	75	65	.536	11
Toronto	73	66	.525	12 1/2
Baltimore	63	76	.453	22 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	78	61	.561	–
Minnesota	77	63	.550	1 1/2
Cleveland	67	71	.486	10 1/2
Detroit	67	73	.479	11 1/2
Kansas City	60	79	.432	18

West Division

Los Angeles	85	54	.612	–
Texas	69	72	.489	17
Oakland	63	77	.450	22 1/2
Seattle	54	85	.388	31

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	79	61	.564	–
Philadelphia	76	64	.543	3
Florida	71	69	.507	8
Atlanta	61	80	.433	18 1/2
Washington	54	87	.383	25 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	85	55	.607	–
Milwaukee	80	60	.571	5
St. Louis	75	65	.536	10
Houston	74	66	.529	11
Cincinnati	62	78	.443	23
Pittsburgh	59	80	.424	25 1/2

West Division

Arizona	71	68	.511	–
Los Angeles	70	70	.500	1 1/2
Colorado	66	75	.468	6
San Francisco	60	79	.432	11
San Diego	54	86	.386	17 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 8, Pittsburgh 6
Atlanta 2, Washington 0
San Diego 5, Milwaukee 2
L.A. Angels 7, Detroit 1
Kansas City 5, Oakland 4, 10 inning, 1st game
Kansas City 9, Oakland, 2nd game
Toronto 9, Minnesota 0
Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

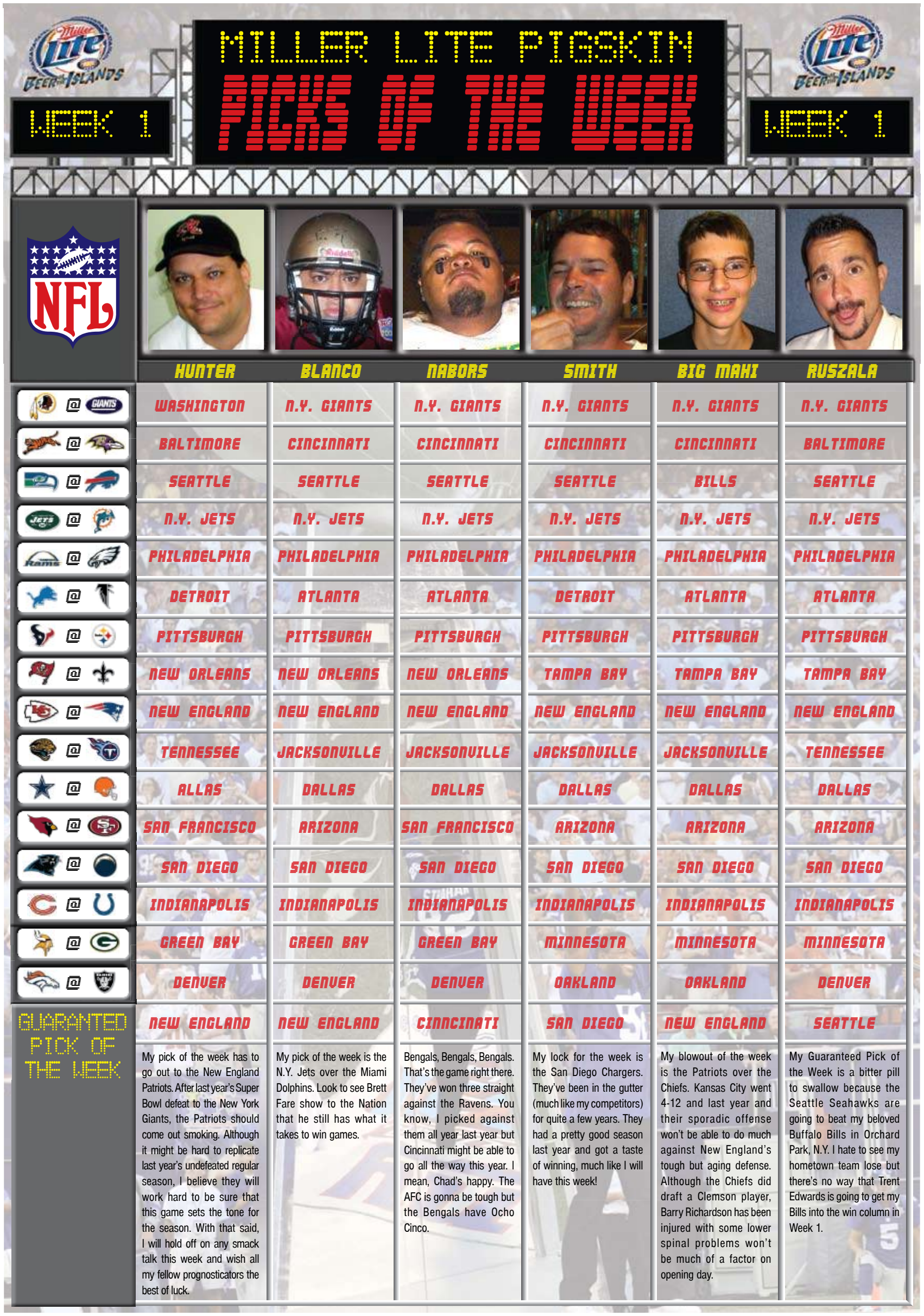
LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	3	0
G-Rollers I	2	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	2	1
Kontenders	2	2
San Antonio Sixers	1	0
G-Stars	1	2
Suns	0	1
C.K. Saints	0	2
G-Rollers II	0	3

Welcome back Miller Lite Pigskin Picks

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE


MILLER LITE PIGSKIN
PICKS OF THE WEEK
WEEK 1
WEEK 1
HUNTER
BLANCO
NABORS
SMITH
BIG MAHI
RUSZALA
WASHINGTON
N.Y. GIANTS
N.Y. GIANTS
N.Y. GIANTS
N.Y. GIANTS
N.Y. GIANTS
BALTIMORE
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MINNESOTA
MINNESOTA
MINNESOTA
DENVER
DENVER
DENVER
OAKLAND
OAKLAND
DENVER
GUARANTED PICK OF THE WEEK
NEW ENGLAND
NEW ENGLAND
CINNCINATI
SAN DIEGO
NEW ENGLAND
SEATTLE
My pick of the week has to go out to the New England Patriots. After last year's Super Bowl defeat to the New York Giants, the Patriots should come out smoking. Although it might be hard to replicate last year's undefeated regular season, I believe they will work hard to be sure that this game sets the tone for the season. With that said, I will hold off on any smack talk this week and wish all my fellow prognosticators the best of luck.
My pick of the week is the N.Y. Jets over the Miami Dolphins. Look to see Brett Fare show to the Nation that he still has what it takes to win games.
Bengals, Bengals, Bengals. That's the game right there. They've won three straight against the Ravens. You know, I picked against them all year last year but Cincinnati might be able to go all the way this year. I mean, Chad's happy. The AFC is gonna be tough but the Bengals have Ocho Cinco.
My lock for the week is the San Diego Chargers. They've been in the gutter (much like my competitors) for quite a few years. They had a pretty good season last year and got a taste of winning, much like I will have this week!
My blowout of the week is the Patriots over the Chiefs. Kansas City went 4-12 and last year and their sporadic offense won't be able to do much against New England's tough but aging defense. Although the Chiefs did draft a Clemson player, Barry Richardson has been injured with some lower spinal problems won't be much of a factor on opening day.
My Guaranteed Pick of the Week is a bitter pill to swallow because the Seattle Seahawks are going to beat my beloved Buffalo Bills in Orchard Park, N.Y. I hate to see my hometown team lose but there's no way that Trent Edwards is going to get my Bills into the win column in Week 1.

It's time to call up the gang because me n' Ellwood are getting the band back together. Greeting sports fans and welcome to another year of mayhem in the Marianas as the National Football League storms back into the Commonwealth like your rowdy cousin coming back from the mainland with a pocketfull of money and suitcase-full of beer.

This year we'll welcome back some familiar faces as well as some not-so familiar as we search for the CNMI's top prognosticator for the 2008-09 NFL season in our weekly football feature, Miller Lite Pigskin Picks.

Thanks to the good folks at Pacific Trading Co. we'll be awarding our weekly winner with a case of Miller Lite for achievements, and the overall winner at the end of the season will receive a little something special for Super Bowl XLIII.

We've been away for a while so it's time for a reintroduction of the usual cast of characters as well as an introduction to this year's new faces.

Our defending champion is ready to defend his title as big Will Hunter comes to the table with a wealth of knowledge and smile as big as the Marianas Trench. Hunter's a fan of the power running game so look for a lot of solid picks for Denver.

Rejoining Hunter is a former champion and the man behind the scenes of the Commonwealth Football League, John Blanco. The Wazzu alum was Hunter's teammate on the line but Blanco would love to take the title away from his friend fair and square.

Sending his picks from across the channel is big Keith Nabors. The walking, talking heartbeat of the Tinian Typhoon brings his love of the game and Tinian pride when making his picks.

Look for some pika commentary from Tinian's middle linebacker as Nabors bars no holds from the "friendly" competition at hand. You can also count on his instincts when you're faced with choosing between teams in a tight match-up.

We were even able to bring back one of the past fan favorites as Chris "The Lil Mahi" Barry signed on for the new season. The only thing is that I had to rename the kid from Saipan International School because he's taller than I am. What are his parents feeding him, anyway?

In light of his runaway growth spurt, I've taken it upon myself to graduate Barry to the respected title of "The Big Mahi" for the coming year. Don't count this kiddo's age against him because he's no slouch. The Big Mahi brings a lofty level of statistical data to the table along with his new level of altitude.

Sorry Mahi, but you won't be able to take home any of the Miller Lite if you win each week. The good news is that you'll be able to enjoy some Pepsi products as well as some Gatorade until you're old enough.

One of the newest faces on our list comes from the Great White North, but Glen Smith knows more about American Football than Canadian Maple Syrup. The physical education instructor from Saipan Southern High School is a football fan with a plan of sweeping his way to his first championship.

Smith is known locally more for his exploits on the soccer field than the football field, but he passed the football knowledge placement test with flying colors and we expect great things from him. Plus he bribed us with some poutine to make the cut.

I'll round out the final spot to see if I can hold my own with these heavyweights. I bring what many call a misguided loyalty for my hometown Buffalo Bills and more than a decade's worth of experience convincing people of the difficulty of finishing second four years in a row.

I'm not looking for the Bills to win the Super Bowl this year, but anything could happen. Hey, we've made four nights in a row without power outages so who knows?

Welcome back Miller Lite Pigskin Picks

It's time to call up the gang because me n' Ellwood are getting the band back together.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Giants kick off Super Bowl defense with win

The New York Giants kicked off their Super Bowl title defense with what else–defense. Playing without Pro Bowl linemen Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora, the defense limited the new-look Washington Redskins to 11 first downs and 209 total yards.

25

Rangamar triple lifts DCCA past Bank of Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Elias Rangamar rarely fired shots from downtown in the second half of their playoff game against Bank of Guam. Actually, he attempted only twice, missing the first one badly.

The second was as clean as a whistle.

Rangamar nailed a booming triple from the top of the key in the dying seconds of the game to give DCCA a thrilling 83-82 victory at the start of the playoffs in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rangamar's dagger into BOG's heart came after the Express' Randy Pelisamen muffed his two free throws, which could have won the game for his team.

DCCA's Peter Camacho, whose split free throw cut BOG's lead to two, 80-82, in the last 15 seconds of the game, gave up a quick foul on a sprinting Pelisamen, who used to play for DCCA.

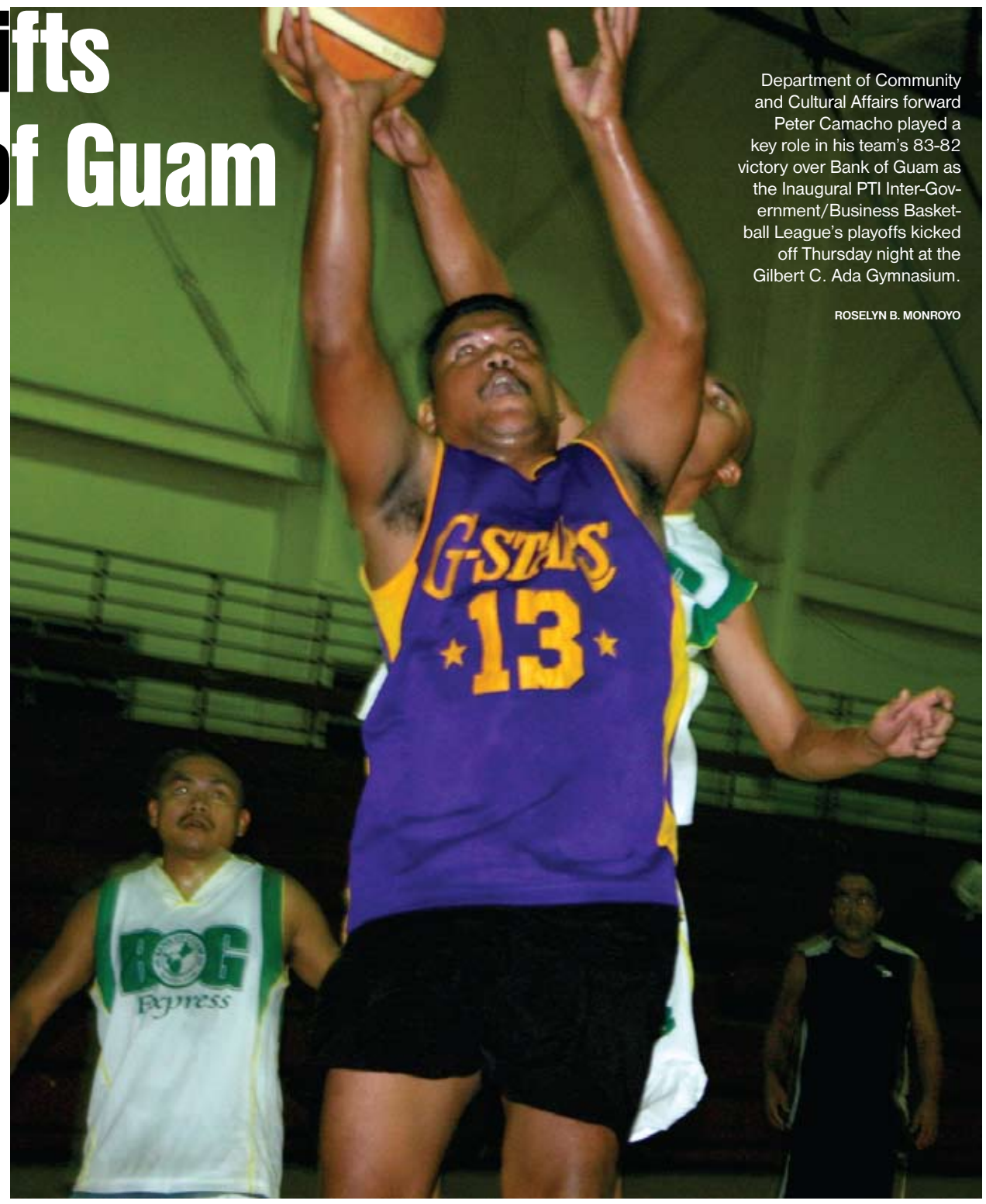
Pelisamen missed both charities and Camacho grabbed the rebound, quickly crossing the halfcourt line and passing the ball to Taj Van Buren.

Van Buren drove to the right baseline, but Gus Palacios shut the door on him. Van Buren was trapped on the baseline, but still had a presence of mind to kick the ball out to Rangamar, who received the pass with about four seconds left on the clock and released the ball which hit nothing but the bottom of the net.

The Express did not have enough time to take a decent shot in the last play.

Rangamar was hugged by his jubi-

See RANGAMAR on Page 26

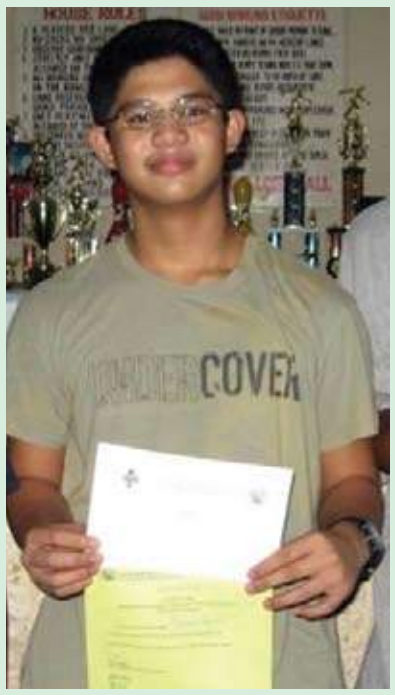


Department of Community and Cultural Affairs forward Peter Camacho played a key role in his team's 83-82 victory over Bank of Guam as the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League's playoffs kicked off Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Nicky, Raphael get August nod

San Nicolas



Zapanta

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Ace pitcher Nicolas San Nicolas and youth bowler Raphael Zapanta were named August Athletes of the Month by the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association during its monthly meeting Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

San Nicolos took home the August Male Athlete of the Month plum after leading Rock Steady to the championship of the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

The most promising pitching prospect the islands have seen in years was front and center in the pennant champions' title-clinching 5-3 victory over a game Ford Rangers team last Aug. 30 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

San Nicolas, with the help of Rock Steady's stout defense, gave up only

See NICKY on Page 26

NMBF bids adieu to Bungalos

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Former women's and mixed doubles badminton champion Janice Bungalos will bid adieu to the CNMI today after making the islands her home since October 2005.

The 26-year-old Sun Palace Inn staff will be returning to the Philippines for good along with her six-month-old daughter Jahnelle and they will be reunited with Bungalos' five-year-old son, Gandalf.

Her husband, Neil, will accompany them to the Philippines but will return to Saipan after a short stay.

Bungalos was part of a handful of players that started the sport at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in early 2005 and was one of the better women players as attested by the doubles and mixed doubles titles she won during the Inaugural Northern Marianas Badminton Federation Tournament later that year.

The University of Santos Tomas alumnus won championships in two divisions in the October 2005 competition, pairing with Macoi Aguda to win the mixed doubles finals following a 21-10, 19-21, 21-10 victory over Edwin Montoya and Cristy Villaflor and

See NMBF on Page 26

MARK RABAGO
Janice Bungalos in action in this file photo from the 2005 NMBF Tournament.

G-Stars score first win over CK Saints

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The G-Stars finally barged into the win column after two straight losses in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club 18-under Youth Basketball League by winning over the Chalan Kanoa Saints, 76-67, last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Nate Mateo and Lia Rangamar provided the firepower for the G-Stars as they finished with 21 and 17 points, respectively.

Rangamar shot four of his team's seven makes from three-point range.

With the win, the G-Stars now occupy solo 6th place with a 1-2 card and still way behind the leaders.

The loss, on the other hand, put the Saints in eighth place with their 0-2 record, which is just half a game ahead of ninth-running G-Rollers II's 0-3.

The Southern Sonics are on top with 3-0, G-Rollers I second (2-0), CNMI Jr. Nationals third (2-1), Kontenders fourth (2-2), San Antonio Sixers fifth

See G-STARS on Page 26